

express

A PUBLICATION OF **The Washington Post** | WWW.WASHINGTONPOST.COM/EXPRESS | DEC. 30, 2004 - JAN. 2, 2005 | >>FREE<<

Weekend



An Iraqi man mourns the loss of two cousins.

Police Ambushed: U.S. launches new offensive after militant attack in Baghdad | **5**



Law's Loss:
'Law & Order' star Jerry Orbach dead of prostate cancer at 69 | **20**

ENTERTAINMENT

Pop the Cork: Adam West

and other bands want to rock your New Year. Plus, salutes to Hank Williams, Glenn Gould.

>> **14-22**



**Weekend
PASS**

Weather > Variably Cloudy



52 | 40

FULL FORECAST ON PAGE 25



DESPERATION: Tsunami survivors in Cuddalore, India, rush for donated clothes and food on Wednesday as the death toll across Asia climbed past 77,000.

A Race to Save Survivors

Bush announces coalition to aid tsunami-ravaged countries

BANDA ACEH, INDONESIA | As the world scrambled to the rescue, survivors fought over packs of noodles in quake-stricken Indonesian streets Wednesday while relief supplies piled up at the airport for lack of cars, gas or passable roads to move them. The official death toll across 12 countries soared to near 77,000 and the Red Cross predicted it could pass 100,000.

Bodies were piled into mass graves to ward off disease. Paramedics in southern India began vaccinating thousands of survivors against cholera, typhoid, hepatitis A and dysentery, and authorities sprayed

bleaching powder on beaches where bodies have been recovered. In Sri Lanka, reports of waterborne disease such as diarrhea caused fears of an epidemic.

"We're facing a disaster of unprecedented proportion in nature," said Simon Missiri, a top Red Cross official. "We're talking about a staggering death toll."

In his first public comments on the disaster, President Bush announced the United States, India, Australia and Japan have formed an international coalition to coordinate relief and

reconstruction of the 3,000 miles of Indian Ocean rim devastated by Sunday's earthquake and the tsunami it unleashed.

From airlifts of rice and water purifiers to the deployment of an entire Marine expeditionary force, the United States marshaled resources across the globe to augment its initial \$35 million aid package and make sure the hardest hit locations got the short-term help they requested.

Bush said he phoned the leaders of stricken countries to solicit specific needs and assure them the initial aid package "is only the beginning of our help." **CHRIS BRUMMITT (AP)**

♦ **Body count:** As the death toll rises, nations face the challenge of accurately tallying the dead | Page 5

DRIVING | Motor Mutt Michael Henson left a Springdale, Ark., auto parts store Sunday with more problems than he went in with. For that, he can thank his dog. Henson, whose truck had a sticking throttle, brought his dog along for company when he drove to



O'Reilly Auto Parts. He left the truck running to show the people at O'Reilly's, and the dog jumped over and knocked the truck into gear, police Sgt. Billy Turnbough said. The truck raced into the building, stunning Henson and a clerk. (AP) **EyeOpeners** | Page 2

eyeOpeners



AARON FAJALA/AP

CELEBRATIONS

Powder Play

Happy New Year! Now duck and cover. Despite a government crackdown, many Filipinos light powerful firecrackers — made here Wednesday in a Bocaue factory by a man whose hands are covered in firecracker powder — on New Year's eve. The celebrations result in deaths and fires, and shroud neighborhoods in smoke from blasts and burning tires. (AP)

MARKETING

Resolve Not to Be Counterproductive

Want to work off those excess holiday pounds with a free fitness-club membership? Chow down on fast food first. With New Year's resolutions in mind, Bally Total Fitness Holding Corp. is teaming up with Yum Brands Inc. to offer an unlimited number of four-week memberships at Bally clubs this winter. The only requirement:

Buy burgers, fries, pizza or the like at one of Yum's more than 18,000 U.S. restaurants. Customers who eat at any of five Yum restaurant chains — Taco Bell, Pizza Hut, KFC, Long John Silver's or A&W Restaurants — during January can obtain a membership to one of Bally's more than 400 nationwide facilities simply by presenting a proof-of-purchase receipt for any amount. Yum is the nation's second-biggest fast-food chain after McDonald's Corp. (AP)

TRACKS

They Got His Drift

It didn't take much to solve this case. A Christmas morning burglar was caught after he left a trail of footprints through the first snow to hit Brownsville, Texas, in 109 years, the Brownsville Herald reported Tuesday. After a break-in at the Trevino Funeral Home, police followed the footprints to a nearby trailer park. Inside a mobile home, they found Jose Guadalupe Facundo, 28, intoxicated on spray paint, with stolen electronics and stereo equipment in plain sight, police said. Police matched his shoes to the footprints. (EXPRESS)

PORN

Whoa, That's Not The Virgin Mary

A Kenmore, Ohio, family hoping to see choirs perform holiday music on Saturday instead saw adult programming on their public-access station. David Umana said he and his wife found "full-frontal, get-the-hell-out-of-here pornography" on the station. The cable company said the wrong tape was put in the machine. (AP)

SLURS

NOROM GIB

Police have charged an Independence, Mo., man with filing a false police report after he claimed someone tried to carve a slur on his forehead. There was one little problem with 22-year-old Floyd Elliot's story: The wound was backward, as if made while looking into a mirror. Officials on Monday said that the slur also was burned into Elliot's chest, but it was not backward. (AP)

living large?

How do you make the most of your small space — and even smaller budget? Send a photo and description of your decorating or organizational solution, and we might just feature it in "Watch This Space," on Fridays in the Home & Shopping section.



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PINT-SIZE PARTY: Can't make it to New York on Dec. 31? Then there's the "Little Apple"—Manhattan, Kan., which also is hosting a New Year's bash. An organizer said interest is strong and hoped the crowd would hit 8,000, over last year's 4,800.



Nation

In Brief

CLEVELAND

FBI Investigating Laser Beam Directed Into Cockpit

Authorities are investigating a mysterious laser beam that was directed into the cockpit of a commercial jet traveling at more than 8,500 feet. The beam appeared Monday when the plane was about 15 miles from Cleveland Hopkins International Airport, the FBI said. The pilot was able to land the plane, and air traffic controllers used radar to determine the laser came from suburban Warrensville Heights. (AP)

LITTLE ROCK, ARK.

Judge Strikes Down State Ban on Gay Foster Parents

An Arkansas judge Wednesday declared unconstitutional a state ban on placing foster children in any household with a gay member. Ruling in a case brought by the Arkansas chapter of the American Civil Liberties Union, Pulaski County Circuit Judge Timothy Fox said the state Child Welfare Agency Review board had overstepped its authority by trying to regulate "public morality." (AP)

WASHINGTON

Study: One in Five Young People Drive Under Influence

More than four million people younger under age 21 drove under the influence of drugs or alcohol last year, according to a government report released Wednesday. That's one in five of all Americans aged 16 to 20. (AP)

NEW YORK CITY | CONFETTI, SET, GO



TRIAL RUN: Unsuspecting tourists in New York City find themselves part of an "air worthiness test" on Wednesday of the confetti that will be used to help ring in 2005 during the New Year's Eve celebration in Times Square.

Suspect in Wis. Hunter Slayings Pleads Not Guilty

HAYWARD, WIS. | A man accused of shooting six fellow deer hunters to death and wounding two others after he was caught trespassing in the woods pleaded not guilty Wednesday.

Chai Soua Vang, 36, waived his right to a preliminary hearing and will stand trial on six counts of murder and three of attempted murder. A judge set a trial date of Sept. 12.

Vang's lawyer, Steven Kohn, said

the defense was considering whether Vang should change his plea to not guilty by reason of insanity.

The gunfire broke out Nov. 21

after some hunters discovered the Hmong immigrant in a tree stand on their land.

Vang has suggested he acted in self-defense, telling investigators the victims fired a shot at him first and berated him with racist slurs.

Vang is behind bars on \$2.5 million bail. He could get life in prison. Wisconsin does not have a death penalty. (AP)



Vang

Agencies Clash On Data Sharing

Infighting impedes creation of fingerprint database, report finds

WASHINGTON | More than three years after the Sept. 11 attacks, President Bush's administration has failed to create a unified U.S. fingerprint database because of agency infighting, meaning most visitors to the country still aren't fully screened for terrorist or criminal ties, the Justice Department's watchdog has warned.

Continued bureaucratic clashing "creates a risk that a terrorist could enter the country undetected," Inspector General Glenn A. Fine said Wednesday, in his fourth report about the problem.

Despite some improvement, the Justice, State and Homeland Security departments are at an impasse over such basic issues as whether two or 10 fingers should be

printed at U.S. borders and which law enforcement agencies should have access to immigration information.

Without an integrated system, the review found that watch lists used to check certain visitors at the borders contain only a small portion of the 47 million records in FBI fingerprint files and that these incomplete lists are prone to error.

Current Homeland Security plans call for fingerprint checking against FBI files of fewer than 1 percent of the estimated 118,000 daily U.S. visitors whose prints should be checked, or fewer than 1,180. Yet by the end of 2005, the officials expect to check only about 800 people a day against the FBI database.

Since the 2001 attacks, Congress has repeatedly pushed the agencies to devise a single, quick fingerprint identification system that could be used by several different types of agencies. CURT ANDERSON (AP)

HEARSAY | WEIGHTLESSNESS



"There were lots of desserts and candies on board that we could kind of snack on ... It was not an unhealthy diet, but not an ideal diet."

—U.S. SPACE STATION COSMONAUT LEROY CHIAO
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Nation



SINKING IN: Workers watch flood waters pour into a construction site that turned into a sinkhole Wednesday in Los Angeles after strong storms battered the area.

Powerful Storms Bring Floods to Parts of West

SEDONA, ARIZ. | A powerful storm battered the West for a third straight day Wednesday, forcing hundreds of people out of a scenic region of Arizona, sending recreational vehicles floating down a flooded creek and turning Southern California freeways into a virtual demolition derby.

The storm spawned a tornado in Southern California and blacked out more than 140,000 customers in the area while making for treacherous driving conditions. The California Highway Patrol logged 220 crashes between Tuesday night and

Wednesday morning — more than three times the normal amount.

At least 300 people were evacuated because of flooding in low-lying areas of Sedona, where Oak Creek rose 11 feet during the night, reaching 14 feet by late morning.

The California tornado struck two Los Angeles suburbs, ripping the roof off a house, and damaging cars, but causing no injuries.

Storm-related deaths since Monday mounted to five in California, and some highways were closed due to flooding and mudslides, officials said. (AP)

Pilots Warned to Feel Wings for Ice

WASHINGTON | In a rare move, federal safety officials on Wednesday said they're sending a letter to all pilots warning them to run their hands along their aircraft's wings before takeoff to make sure tiny amounts of ice haven't formed, potentially causing an accident.

The National Transportation Safety Board said the unusual alert stemmed from discussions about icing during the investigation of the Nov. 28 crash in Montrose, Colo., that killed the 14-year-old son of NBC Sports chairman Dick Ebersol and two other people.

The alert is aimed at smaller planes, including corporate jets and private aircraft. (AP)

Today in The Washington Post

Campaign Cash: John Kerry's camp nearly matched the GOP in campaign funds but the Democrats did not spend the money as effectively, an analysis finds. | *Page A1*

King for Sale: The marketing machine that is pop culture icon Elvis Presley was sold two weeks ago — a fitting move for rock music's first franchise. | *Style*

Bowl Berths: The system for determining the country's top college football teams has proven to be as inelegant as its name: the Bowl Championship Series. | *Sports*

INFLAMED: An Italian bar and restaurant group urged its members Wednesday to boycott an anti-smoking law that, beginning Jan. 10, requires owners to call police if customers defy the ban. Owners who resist could face a \$3,000 fine.



World

In Asia, a Race to Count the Dead

Meticulous records are offset by hurried burials in mass graves

CUDDALORE, INDIA | Armies of officials are tabulating the deaths caused by the tsunami that struck a dozen countries in Asia and Africa last weekend. The grim task is often imprecise.

There is meticulous record keeping in many areas of India but bulldozers push bodies into mass graves in other places in Asia, forcing officials to make guesstimates.

"You are dealing with a lot of imperfections," said Steve Hollingworth, director of India's branch of the international aid group CARE. "People are dealing with a chaotic situation."

So far, the death toll across 12 nations has approached 77,000. The International Red Cross warned Wednesday that the toll could surpass 100,000.

In India, a network of bureaucratic foot soldiers are recording every death, taking a photograph of each body. Sri Lanka follows a similar process, different officials give different death tolls. The nation's disaster center said more than 22,000 people died.

In Indonesia, officials swamped by the vast numbers admit they have



GRIM SURROUNDINGS: A Thai man searches Wednesday for his relative amid hundreds of corpses in a temple near Ban Muan.

been forced to make crude estimates. In some cases, they estimate the population of a village, count the survivors and assume the rest have been killed.

Mindful of the emotional toll the process takes, local leaders have gotten approval from Muslim leaders to hold mass burials. In villages of Sri Lanka, residents hurriedly buried their dead within 24 hours in

keeping with Islamic tradition, even before the official count began.

On Wednesday, officials in Indonesia's Aceh province bulldozed hundreds of bodies into pits. No identity photos were taken, and no details of the mostly naked, dirty corpses were written down.

"We're facing a major health hazard if we leave them lying around," Aceh Gov. Azwar Abu Bakar said. (AP)

IN TODAY'S POST

Misuses: Disorganized efforts prevent relief supplies from reaching those in need | **Section A**

U.S. aid: The administration may ultimately pledge as much as \$1 billion to relief efforts | **Section A**

Click to help: Americans are going online in droves to donate money for victims | **Section A**

Militants Ambush Elite Iraqi Police Unit

29 people die in Sunni area in Baghdad after police lured by 'tip'



U.S. soldiers survey the scene of the blast in west Baghdad on Wednesday.

national guards were about to raid a house late Tuesday after receiving an anonymous tip. The blast killed 22 civilians and seven officers, a police spokesman said.

The militants set off a huge explosion in the staunchly Baathist neighborhood of Ghaziliya as a contingent of special police and

insurgents have intensified their strikes against Iraqi security forces as part of a continuing campaign to disrupt the elections for a constitutional assembly. Government troops are supposed to protect polling stations, and the insurgents' strategy — which includes attacking police stations, checkpoints and patrols — appears aimed at demonstrating the security forces are incapable of handling the job.

Meanwhile, Brig. Gen. Jeffery Hammond said Wednesday that U.S. troops had begun a major anti-insurgency operation 25 miles south of Baghdad, focused on areas around Mahmudiya. (SLOBODAN LEKIC / AP)

Militant Attacks, Battles in Riyadh Kill at Least 8

RIYADH, SAUDI ARABIA | Militants launched coordinated car bombings and battled security forces in the Saudi capital Wednesday night in attacks that killed eight people.

A car bomb detonated near the Interior Ministry in central Riyadh — killing a bystander, according to Saudi TV — followed soon after by a blast when suicide attackers tried to bomb a troop recruitment center.

The gunmen who set off the ministry blast by remote control then fled and battled police in northern Riyadh in a fight that killed seven militants, a police official said. (AP)

In Brief

ISRAEL

Four Israelis Accused of Forging Bible-Era Artifacts

Four Israeli antiquities collectors and dealers were indicted Wednesday on charges they ran a sophisticated forgery ring that spanned the globe and produced a treasure trove of fake Bible-era artifacts, including the purported burial box of Jesus' brother. Investigators warned that collectors and museums around the world could be in the possession of fakes. (AP)

UKRAINE

Defiant Yanukovych Refuses To Concede Despite Protests

Supporters of apparent presidential winner Viktor Yushchenko blocked his election opponent from presiding at a Cabinet meeting in Kiev Wednesday as tensions persisted in this former Soviet republic. Prime Minister Viktor Yanukovych showed no signs of cracking, refusing to surrender his post and telling journalists he would challenge the results of Sunday's runoff vote before the Supreme Court. (AP)

SUDAN

U.N. Stops Aid Convoys Amid Government, Rebel Fighting

The U.N. World Food Program suspended food convoys to the Darfur region in western Sudan after rebel forces attacked the market town of Ghubaysh and the government retaliated, U.N. humanitarian officials said. The attack Monday follows weeks of insecurity in Darfur in which both rebel and government-backed forces have attacked each other. The fighting reportedly has displaced 1.8 million people. (AP)

CHINA

Jiang to Relinquish Last Post

Former President Jiang Zemin will step down from his last remaining government post in March, the official Xinhua News Agency reported Wednesday. Jiang holds the largely symbolic title of chairman of the Central Military Commission of the People's Republic of China. He had already stepped down in September from his more powerful position as head of the Communist Party's Central Military Commission. (AP)

Local



THE NOSE KNOWS: Metro Transit Police on Wednesday showcased three new bomb-sniffing dogs—including Fred (pictured)—that join the force in January after 11 weeks of training in the bus and rail systems, where they got used to crowds and escalators.

'Proud' Williams Signs Baseball Bill

Mayor's act clears way to renovate RFK Stadium

WASHINGTON | With the speed of a fastball, Mayor Anthony A. Williams signed legislation Wednesday to bring baseball back to the nation's capital.

"This is one of my proudest days as mayor," Williams said.

The signature came after weeks of time outs as the D.C. Council balked at the plan to finance a new stadium along the Southeast waterfront.

Williams called the signing a

"symbol of how we are keeping our commitments."

More than a dozen District schoolchildren wearing red, white and blue Washington Nationals T-shirts applauded the signing.

The legislation clears the way to renovate RFK Stadium, where the Nationals will have their home opener April 14. It also allows the city to sell up to \$584 million in bonds for construction of a 41,000-



Anthony Williams said Wednesday was one of his proudest as D.C. mayor.

LAWRENCE JACKSON/AP

HEATHER GREENFIELD (AP)

seat stadium. D.C.'s chief financial officer has already invited private financing proposals.

Baseball Commissioner Bud Selig still must give final approval so the D.C. Sports and Entertainment Commission can begin renovating RFK and hire an architect to design the new stadium. Commission chairman Mark Tuohey said they have dug up the field and moved thousands of seats from around the third base line to left centerfield.

HEATHER GREENFIELD (AP)

The Lotteries

Wednesday, Dec. 29

DISTRICT

Mid-day Lucky Numbers	5-5-1
Evening Lucky Numbers	1-2-5
Mid-day DC 4	2-8-0-8
Evening DC 4	2-4-9-2
Quick Cash	21-15-28-4-9-13
Hot Five	13-32-28-25-11

MARYLAND

Mid-day Pick 3	1-1-4
Evening Pick 3	5-4-4
Mid-day Pick 4	0-1-1-2
Evening Pick 4	2-2-6-3
Match 5	5-32-33-34-39 Bonus: 36

VIRGINIA

Mid-day Pick 3 (Wed.)	5-0-8
Evening Pick 3 (Tues.)	5-1-7
Mid-day Pick 4 (Wed.)	6-5-3-9
Evening Pick 4 (Tues.)	0-9-0-4
Mid-day Cash 5 (Wed.)	4-6-22-30-33
Evening Cash 5 (Tues.)	4-6-18-21-29

MULTI-STATE GAMES

Mega Millions (Tues.)	18-29-32-38-43
Mega Ball	50

All winning numbers are official only when validated at a lottery ticket location or a lottery claims office. Drawings that occur after Express's deadline will be published two days later.

Md. Dems Seek to Overrule Ehrlich

ANNAPOLIS, MD. | The House of Delegates approved a medical malpractice insurance bill Wednesday, setting the stage for negotiations with Senate leaders on a compromise version that would have enough support to override Gov. Robert Ehrlich's promised veto.

House Speaker Michael Busch and Senate President Thomas V. Mike

Miller predicted they would work out their differences and send a bill to the governor that contained significant malpractice insurance reform and the 2 percent tax on health maintenance insurance premiums opposed by the governor.

Democratic leaders challenged Ehrlich to sign whatever bill is produced by the special session, insist-

ing there would be little, if any, effect, on policyholders if HMOs are required to pay the premium tax paid by all other insurers.

Ehrlich refused to yield. "We didn't call these folks into special session so they could pass a regressive tax that will be passed on to those who can least afford to pay it," he said. (AP)

Man Struck by Train in Laurel

LAUREL, MD. | A man sustained life-threatening injuries Wednesday after being struck by a MARC commuter train as it approached Laurel's Main Street station.

The man apparently was on the tracks and didn't move as the train approached just before 6 p.m., a fire department spokesman said. (AP)

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Money

Home Sales Surge on Low Rates

WASHINGTON | Sales of previously owned homes in November posted their best month on record as low mortgage rates enticed buyers.

The National Association of Realtors reported Wednesday that sales, at a seasonally adjusted annual rate, totaled an all-time monthly high of 6.94 million units, up 2.7 percent from October's pace.

While some other recent reports raised questions as to whether the high-flying housing market might be losing a bit of altitude, Wednesday's report suggested the sector is still humming along.

"So far, the stars have been aligned" for the housing market, said David Lereah, the association's chief economist. (AP)

Time Warner, Sprint in Wireless Talks

KANSAS CITY, MO. | Sprint Corp. and Time Warner Cable are discussing a deal that would allow the cable provider to offer cell phone service, the companies said Wednesday.

Such a deal would make the unit of Time Warner Inc. the only major cable company to offer the so-called "quadruple play" — television, high-

US Airways Calls For More Hands

Carrier asks workers to volunteer this weekend

PHILADELPHIA | US Airways is trying to recruit volunteers willing to work for free over the New Year's weekend at Philadelphia's airport in order to avoid a repeat of a Christmas fiasco that left the struggling airline with too few workers to fly its planes and process baggage.

The company took the unusual step Tuesday of asking employees around the United States whether they would be willing to travel to Philadelphia International Airport between now and Jan. 3 to work as unpaid volunteers supplementing the airport's regular staff.

The company said it hoped to find volunteers willing to donate time greeting passengers, answering

questions, serving coffee, directing foot traffic and lending a hand in baggage claim.

Company spokesman David Castelveter said the airline's managers planned to be among those volunteering their time. He couldn't say how many people had responded to the call for volunteers.

The problems come at a particularly bad time for US Airways, which is struggling to stay afloat. A bankruptcy court judge temporarily slashed the pay of all workers by 21 percent in October. The court has said the company could be liquidated if it does not present a viable financial plan by Jan. 15.

DAVID CARUSO (AP)

Market Action

New York Stock Exchange

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
ThreeFS	2.48	+.39	+18.7
CmpTsk	5.80	+.56	+10.7
PetroKaz g	36.51	+.32	+10.7
WestPhm s	25.02	+.71	+7.3
Salton	5.33	+.33	+6.6

Losers

AppldIndl s	27.58	-2.12	-7.1
StarGsSr	4.67	-.35	-7.0
MSstewrt	28.97	-1.97	-6.4
Greencos	34.81	-1.89	-5.1
Vestalns	3.65	-.19	-4.9

Rates

	CURRENT	PREVIOUS WEEK
Prime Rate	5.25	5.25
Fed Funds close	2.25	2.25
3-month	2.18	2.17
2-year	3.10	3.00
10-year	4.33	4.20
30-year	4.95	4.83

NASDAQ Stock Market

Gainers

STOCK	LAST	DAILY CHANGE	DAILY PERCENT CHANGE
YDI Wiss n	4.36	+.70	+63.9
OraLabs	4.09	+.51	+58.5
CSP	10.46	+.50	+31.4
Phazar	45.00	+.40	+26.4
CMGI	2.60	+.43	+19.8

Losers

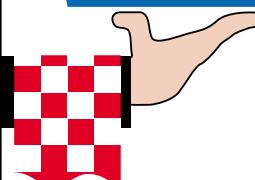
ProximA rs	4.10	-.84	-17.1
GrillCon If	2.17	-.32	-12.7
ElecSen	4.35	-.60	-12.1
MonServ	2.49	-.31	-11.1
NyerMd	2.73	-.34	-11.1

Currency (Dollars in foreign currency)

	TODAY	PREVIOUS DAY	YEAR AGO
British Pound	.5216	.5182	.5640
Canadian Dollar	1.2131	1.2163	1.3103
European Euro	.7354	.7348	.8007
Japanese Yen	103.83	103.03	106.91
Mexican Peso	11.2435	11.2340	11.2200
Taiwanese Dollar	31.97	32.02	34.06

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2004 | Retrospect

A Year Full Of Turmoil

YEAR IN REVIEW | If nothing else, 2004 was a trying year.

Domestically, a bitterly fought presidential election returned the polarizing President George W. Bush to office and revealed a deep divide over gay marriage and other cultural issues.

Nature, meanwhile, tested the limits of human perseverance by pounding the southeastern United States with four straight hurricanes and, at year's end, unleashing deadly tidal waves across South Asia.

Terrorists plumbed new depths of horror, blowing up commuters in Spain, killing schoolchildren in Russia, and beheading hostages in Iraq, while a brutal civil war in Sudan brought the massacre of countless villagers and creat-

ed almost 2 million refugees.

And yet there were signs of hope. Hamid Karzai became Afghanistan's first democratically elected president; the death of revered and reviled Palestinian leader Yasser Arafat brought a glimmer of hope for an end to years of conflict in the Middle East; and Iraq is moving, however haltingly, toward its first post-Saddam national elections.

As 2004 ends, here's a look back at the year's top news stories.

■ Red, White and ... Red

After vanquishing Howard Dean, John Edwards and other Democratic rivals, John Kerry seemed to have a strong chance of ousting President Bush. But the Massachusetts sena-

tor struggled to explain his stance on Iraq, underestimated the sting of negative ads and narrowly lost the pivotal swing state of Ohio after a campaign in which Bush, over and over, insisted he was best qualified to be commander in chief at a time of complex challenges to national security. The electoral map was a sea of Republican red, with islands of Democratic blue in the Northeast, upper Midwest and West Coast.

■ Battlefield Iraq

Throughout 2004, Iraq was a striking mix of bloody turmoil and tantalizing promise. Anti-American insurgents wreaked havoc with car bombings and videotaped beheadings of hostages; the death toll for U.S. military forces passed 1,300,

ELECTION 2004 | FOUR MORE YEARS



FAMILY AFFAIR: Basking in the glow of his successful re-election campaign, President Bush and first lady Laura Bush wave to supporters at a victory rally on Nov. 3 in Washington. Bush's twin daughters Jenna, left, and Barbara look on.

ABU GHRAIB | THE IMAGES



FIRESTORM IGNITES: This photograph, obtained from The New Yorker, shows a hooded and wired detainee at Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad. In other photos, naked detainees were forced into humiliating positions.

HURRICANES | STORM-WEARY



UPROOTED: Cecilia Shaw of Parker, Fla., surveys the damage near her motor home on Sept. 16 after Hurricane Ivan swept through town. Four major hurricanes ravaged Florida in August and September, costing residents billions.

2004 | Retrospect

REAGAN'S DEATH | FAREWELL TO THE CHIEF



TOUCHING MOMENT: Nancy Reagan lays her hand on the casket of her husband, former President Ronald Reagan, as it lies in state at the U.S. Capitol in Washington on June 9. Reagan's state funeral was the nation's first in three decades.

and the toll of Iraqi civilians was many times higher. Yet Iraq's interim leaders doggedly proceeded with plans for national elections.

Blow, Wind Blow

Four major hurricanes — Charley, Frances, Ivan and Jeanne — devastated Florida and other southern states in August and September, killing 117 people in Florida, destroying 2,500 homes and causing more than \$22 billion in insured losses. Not since 1886 had one state been hit by four hurricanes in one season.

Shocking, Awful

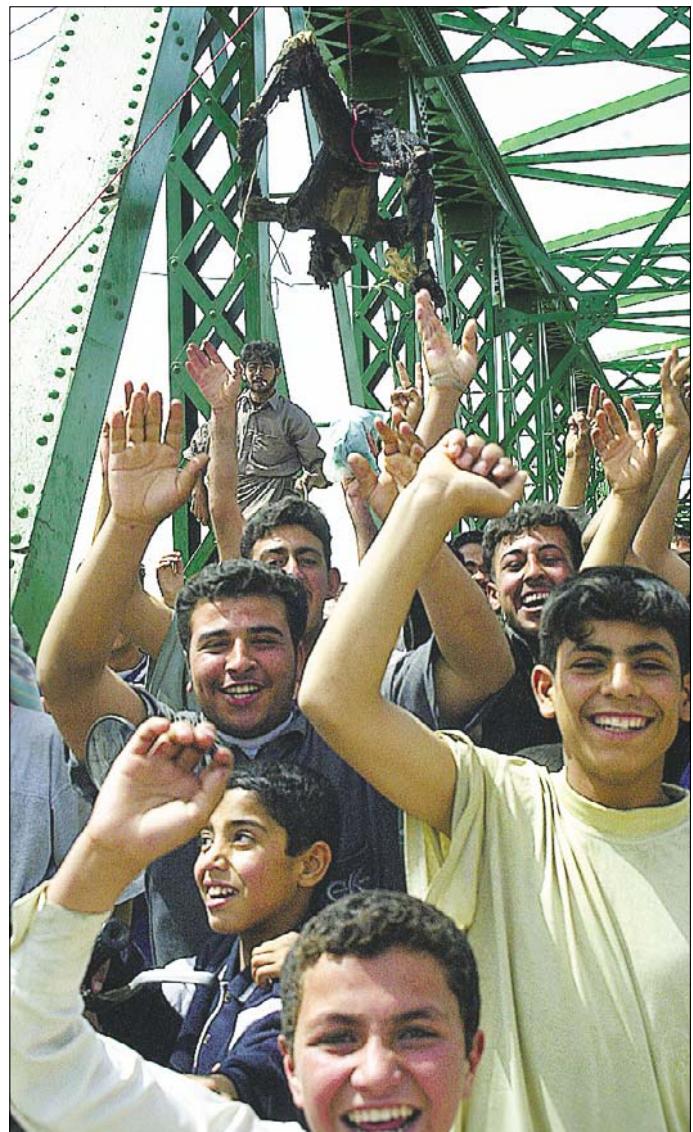
Photos came to light showing U.S. military guards at the Abu Ghraib prison near Baghdad forcing naked Iraqi detainees to pose in humiliating positions. Prosecutions ensued, and the scandal fueled anti-American sentiment throughout the Muslim world.

Marital Strife

From coast to coast, gay marriage was a volatile topic throughout the year. Massachusetts became the first state to have legal, same-sex weddings, and local officials in several places — including San Francisco and Portland, Ore. — also wed gay and lesbian couples before courts intervened. However, each time the issue reached the ballot — in 13 states in all — voters approved constitutional amendments banning gay marriage.

Continued on page 10

FALLUJAH | BOILING OVER



DEATH IN A HOSTILE CITY: Iraqis celebrate as the charred bodies of American contractors hang from a Fallujah bridge on March 31. In 2004, U.S. forces launched two broad offensives in an effort to rid the city of insurgents.

In Other News ...

TOUCHING SPACE | The final frontier got a little closer when NASA's rover, Spirit, touched down on Mars on Jan. 3.



'I HAVE A SCREAM' | Despite early buzz, Democratic presidential hopeful Howard Dean stopped campaigning in February, deflated by disappointing results and the reaction to his primal scream in a speech after the Iowa caucuses.

JAIL BIRDS | Celebrity homemaker Martha Stewart was convicted March 5 of obstructing justice and lying to the government about a stock sale. She began her five-month prison sentence on Oct. 8.



KING OF POP | Facing new legal troubles, **MICHAEL JACKSON** was secretly indicted on April 21 by a California grand jury investigating child molestation allegations against the pop star.



NEW LEAF | President Bush cleared the way for American companies to do business in Libya on April 23, easing sanctions as a reward to Moammar Gadhafi for giving up weapons of mass destruction.



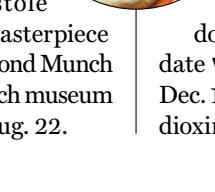
BIG 10 | Ten Eastern European countries joined the European Union on April 30, making it a potential economic and political powerhouse.



COMING OUT | New Jersey Gov. **JAMES MCGREEVEY** announced his resignation and declared that he is gay on Aug. 12, acknowledging that he had an extramarital affair with a man.



SURVIVALS | Hugo Chavez, Venezuela's mercurial, left-leaning president and a vocal critic of U.S. policy, easily defeated an Aug. 15 referendum designed to remove him from office.



THIEVERY | Thieves stole the Edvard Munch masterpiece "The Scream" and a second Munch painting from the Munch museum in Oslo, Norway, on Aug. 22.

ACCUSATIONS | Prosecutors in Eagle, Colo., dropped the sexual assault charge against L.A. Lakers star Kobe Bryant on Sept. 1 because the alleged victim did not want to testify.

HEALTH KICKS | Former President **BILL CLINTON** fell victim to clogged arteries and underwent successful heart bypass surgery at a New York City hospital on Sept. 6.

BREAKTHROUGHS | The private rocket SpaceShipOne blasted through the Earth's atmosphere twice in five days, winning the \$10M Ansari X-Prize on Oct. 4.

BALLOT ACTS | Afghans flocked to their country's first democratic election on Oct. 9 despite unfulfilled threats of attack by Taliban rebels. Hamid Karzai is declared the winner on Nov. 3.

FALLEN IDOLS | Cubans were reminded that President Fidel Castro is in his waning years after the 78-year-old leader stumbled after giving a speech Oct. 20, breaking an arm and a kneecap.

INFAMY | Osama bin Laden, reading a statement to the American

people in a video aired Oct. 29, directly admits for the first time that he ordered the Sept. 11 attacks.

INTEL REFORMS | On Dec. 8, Congress approved legislation to overhaul

U.S. intelligence in response to a report by the panel investigating the 9/11 attacks. President Bush signed the bill on Dec. 17.

TRIALS | The trial of Scott Peterson came to an end on Dec. 10, with a jury in Redwood City, Calif., finding him guilty of killing his pregnant wife, Laci. The same jury later sentenced him to death.

INTRIGUES | A raucous attempt in Ukraine to elect a president takes an unexpected turn when doctors for opposition candidate **VIKTOR YUSHCHENKO** said on Dec. 11 that he was poisoned with dioxin. (EXPRESS)

2004 | Retrospect

RUSSIA | THE CHILDREN OF BESLAN



FRANTIC: A man carries a child Sept. 3 after troops stormed a school seized by armed assailants in Beslan, near Chechnya. Hundreds died in the assault.

ARAFAT | ERA CLOSES



FAREWELLS: A soldier from Yasser Arafat's presidential guard weeps in Gaza City after hearing of his death on Nov. 11.

Continued from page 9

■ Goodbye, Gipper

Alzheimer's disease kept Ronald Reagan out of the public eye for a decade. But when the nation's 40th president died in June at age 93, Americans responded with an outpouring of affection and respect. His stately funeral united the country in a year otherwise marked by partisan divisions.

■ Arafat Dies

For three decades, Yasser Arafat was a hero to most Palestinians but was considered unreliable — or worse — by leaders in the West

and Israel. His death in November, at age 75, triggered emotional mourning among Palestinians but also sparked hopes for peace.

■ Russian School Seizure

The drama in the Russian town of Beslan was especially shocking because it targeted children. A band of terrorists, believed to be led by a Chechen warlord, took more than 1,000 people hostage at a school in September. When the seizure ended, amid explosions and gunfire, more than 330 hostages had been killed — most of them children.

■ Madrid Bombings

Another stunning terrorist strike occurred in March, when 190 people were killed after bombs hidden in backpacks exploded on four commuter trains in Madrid. Soon after the attack, which was blamed on Islamic militants, angry voters unseated Spain's pro-American government in favor of the Socialist Party, which promptly withdrew Spanish troops from Iraq.

■ Wave of Destruction

The year closed with a disaster of almost unimaginable scope as tidal waves spawned by a massive earthquake crashed into South Asia, sweeping tens of thousands of people to their deaths. The tragedy touched off the largest humanitarian relief effort in history. (EXPRESS/AP)

D.C. BASEBALL | HOMECOMING



CATCH: After a scare, Mayor Anthony Williams fought to save the Nationals.

Many Happy Returns in '04

SAFE AT HOME | After being awarded the Expos, D.C. nearly lost the team after the Council added an eleventh-hour amendment on stadium financing. A compromise was later reached to save the team.

BARRY'S BACK | D.C.'s "Mayor for Life," Marion Barry, was elected to the D.C. Council, 14 years after he was caught smoking crack.

SEEING RED | An empty Metro train collided with one full of passengers at Woodley Park on Nov. 3, perhaps the worst of a series of unfortunate events for Metro's Red Line.

IT'S ALIVE | Snakeheads made their return to the area's waterways.

TAPPED OUT | High levels of lead were found in the District's tap water.

SCENES FROM THE MALL | The World War II Memorial and the National Museum of the American Indian

CICADAS | 17-YEAR ITCH



BUZZ: Love 'em or hate 'em, cicadas and their noise came back.

were added to the National Mall.

LIFE, DEATH | Sniper John Allen Muhammad was sentenced to death in Virginia, while his teenage accomplice, Lee Boyd Malvo, was given life in prison. (EXPRESS)

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2004 | Retrospect

Average Joe

SPORTS | There he was, riding in on Daniel Snyder's helicopter. "Say it's so," Redskins fans said. It was true: Joe Gibbs was back coaching the Redskins. Joe would fix all — and not just with the Redskins. Surely, it was Joe who led D.C. United to the MLS Cup. And Joe's second coming must have ended the most famous curse in sports, crushing the "evil empire" en route to the Red Sox's first championship since 1918.

But where was Joe when the Redskins started Mark Brunell for nine games in a bitterly disappointing season? Joe's peaceful ways were nowhere to be found during an ugly brawl between the Indiana Pacers, Detroit Pistons and what's left of the NBA's fans. Joe's val-



ues were ignored when word came that Barry Bonds' 700 home runs were tainted by steroids. "Say it isn't so, Joe."

■ **False Advertising**

Joe Gibbs returned to Washington 12 years after retiring, bringing hope to Redskins fans. Hope turns to disappointment as Gibbs sticks with quarterback Mark Brunell far too long in a 5-10 season.

■ **Knowledge Is Power**

News broke that Jason Giambi admitted using steroids while Barry Bonds, who hit his 700th homer this year, told a Grand Jury that he unknowingly used steroids, feeding an ongoing scandal.

■ **Red October**

The Red Sox reversed their 86-year curse, first by overcoming a 3-0 deficit to the archrival New York Yankees in the ALCS and then by sweeping the St. Louis Cardinals in the World Series. Even more remarkably, Hell did not freeze over.

■ **D.C.'s Good Team**

D.C. United won its fourth MLS Cup in franchise history to prove you can, in fact, win in Washington.

■ **A Black Eye**

As if the NBA needed a worse reputation, the Indiana Pacers and Detroit Pistons engaged in a brawl, with players fighting fans. Ron Artest was handed a year-long suspension for the fight. (EXPRESS)

THE HIGHLIGHTS

PATRIOTS DAY | For the second time in three years, Adam Vinatieri made a last-second field goal to give the New England Patriots the Super Bowl victory as part of a record 21-game winning streak.

BEDEVILED | Maryland stunned Duke to win its first ACC basketball tournament since 1984.

MASTERFUL | Phil Mickelson ended his 0-for-46 run in majors with a victory at the Masters.

LIKE FATHER... | John Thompson III took over at Georgetown, a school his dad made a basketball power. **DOUBLE DARE** | The University of Connecticut became the first school to win the NCAA men's and women's basketball tournaments in the same year.

DETROIT ROCK CITY | The Detroit Pistons shocked the Lakers with a 4-1 victory in the NBA Finals.

SIX PACK | Lance Armstrong won his record sixth-straight Tour de France title.

MEDAL MAN | Swimmer Michael Phelps won eight Olympic medals, including six golds.

GOLDEN GIRLS | U.S. women won

OLYMPICS | PHELPS' ELITE EIGHT



LIFE'S A POOL: Baltimore's Michael Phelps, pictured after winning the men's 400m relay on August 14, became an Olympic star, snagging eight medals.

DAVID GRAY/REUTERS

gold in soccer, basketball and softball in the Olympics.

TAMED | Vijay Singh ended Tiger Woods' five-year reign as the world's No. 1 golfer.

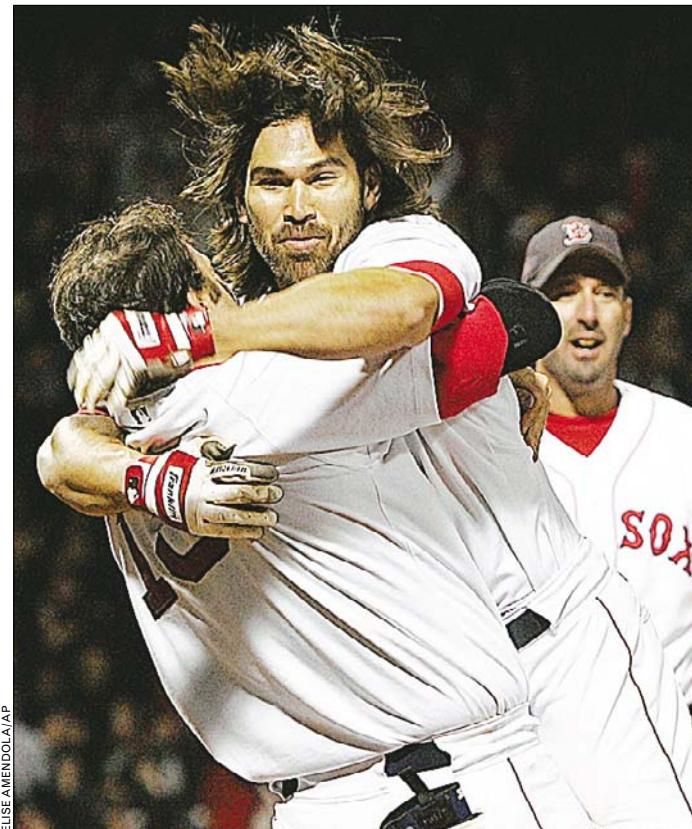
WHO'S HE? | Roger Federer became the first male tennis player since 1988 to win three Grand Slam events in the same year.

HIT MAN | Seattle's Ichiro Suzuki scored 262 hits, breaking an 84-year-old single-season record.

LUCKY 7 | Roger Clemens won his seventh Cy Young, mere months after supposedly retiring.

49ER | Peyton Manning set a new single-season record with 49 touchdown passes.

BASEBALL | CURSE REVERSED



86 YEARS LATER: Boston's Johnny Damon is mobbed by teammates on Oct. 16 as the Red Sox win a World Series title — their first since 1918.

NBA | FAN UNFRIENDLY



KNOCKED OUT: Indiana's Ron Artest was suspended for the year after the infamous brawl between the Pacers, Pistons and NBA fans on Nov. 19.

THE LOWLIGHTS

SPLIT DECISION | LSU and USC shared college football's national title under the BCS system.

DUH | Pete Rose admitted to gambling on baseball in a poorly-written book.

BAD KARMA | Capitals owner Ted Leonsis was suspended by the NHL for striking a fan.

DUMB BELMONT | Smarty Jones faltered down the stretch at the Belmont Stakes, dashing hopes he'd capture the coveted Triple Crown.

DAYS OF THEIR LIVES | Lakers coach Phil Jackson resigned after the NBA finals and then wrote a book saying Kobe Bryant's antics sent him to a therapist.

BRONZED | Americans cheered as the U.S. men's basketball team fails to win Olympic gold.

GET OVER IT | Korea contested Paul Hamm's gold in gymnastics for a month after the Olympics.

CLUBBED | Europe handed the U.S. its worst Ryder Cup loss.

APATHY | The NHL locked out its players, jeopardizing the 2004-05 season. But life goes on ...

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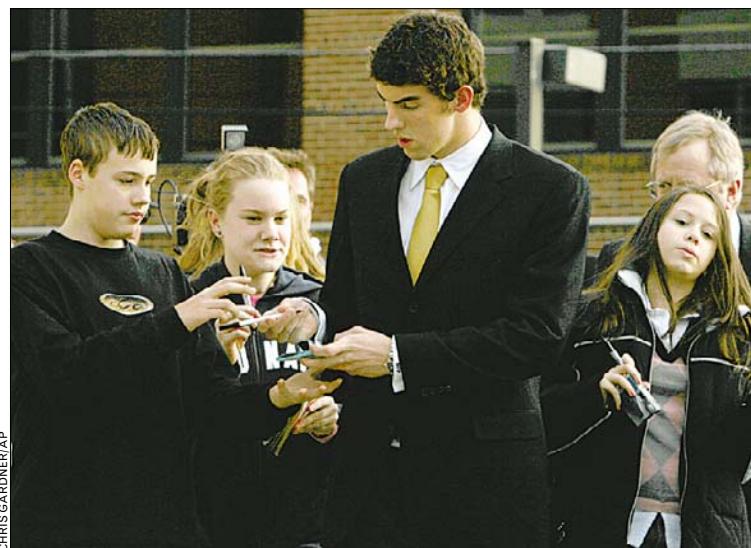
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Sports



Golden Touch: Despite his drunk-driving incident, Michael Phelps maintains a loyal fan base, as evidenced by the autograph-seeking fans outside the courthouse.

**Phelps' 'Mistake'
Yields Probation**

Olympic swimming champ pleads guilty to drunken driving

"this mistake," Phelps told the judge in a packed courtroom. "I've learned from this mistake and will continue learning from this mistake for the rest of my life."

The 19-year-old Phelps was fined \$250, must attend a meeting sponsored by Mothers Against Drunk Driving and must give speeches to students at three schools by June 1, advising them about making choices and warning them about the dangers of alcohol.

As Phelps left the courthouse, the star who won eight medals at the Athens Olympics — six gold — was besieged by autograph seekers.

Phelps was stopped on Nov. 4 for running a stop sign near Salisbury University, about 85 miles southeast of Baltimore. RANDALL CHASE (AP)

Ohalete Seeks \$40,000 From Portis

REDSKINS | Arizona Cardinals safety Ifeanyi Ohalete filed a complaint Wednesday against Washington Redskins running back Clinton Portis, claiming that Portis failed to pay a promised \$40,000 for a jersey number.

When Portis was traded to the Redskins in March, he was unhappy that he could not wear the jersey No. 26 he had donned in his two seasons with the Denver Broncos.

The number already belonged to Ohalete, who had been with the Redskins for three seasons.

The pair reached an agreement and signed a contract just before the start of the team's third minicamp on June 4, with Portis agreeing to pay \$40,000 for the number, according to Ohalete's lawyer, John Steren.

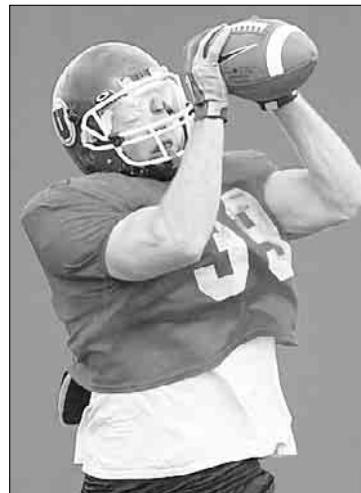
Steren said Ohalete has tried to collect from Portis, but to no avail. (AP)



BUGGED: Daunte Culpepper, Antoine Winfield and Jermaine Wiggins were sent home sick Wednesday by the Vikings, who play the Redskins Sunday. They are suffering from a flu-like virus that has been circulating within the team for the past month.

Sports

TV Lineup



PAUL CONNORS/AP

Tight end Jon Clark aims to help Utah finish with a 12-0 record this season.

→ **A BOWL FOR EVERY DAY:** The college bowl season heats up with the bulk of games played between Thursday and Saturday. Some suggestions to sift through the deluge of pigskin: Navy aims for a 10-win season when facing New Mexico in the Emerald Bowl in San Francisco on Thursday (4:30 p.m. on ESPN2); High-octane offenses from Louisville and Boise State will be on display in the Liberty Bowl in Memphis on Friday (7:30 p.m. on ESPN); Utah can end its season with a 12-0 record if it defeats Pittsburgh in the Fiesta Bowl in Tempe, Ariz., on Saturday (8:30 p.m. on ABC).

→ **SINKING SHIP:** The Washington Redskins try to end their disappointing season on a high note when hosting the Minnesota Vikings, who would slip to 8-8 with a loss on Sunday (1 p.m. on Fox).

→ **WAKE-UP CALL:** Coach Pete Gillen's Virginia Cavaliers get a quick look at how good the ACC is this year in basketball when they host the No. 5 Wake Forest Demon Deacons.

→ **STAYING EAST:** The Wizards don't get two home games for the holidays, but they won't have to travel far for Friday's game against Boston (3 p.m. on Comcast). Then they ring in the new year hosting the Atlanta Hawks on Sunday (noon on WB50).

Betts Finally Has His Number Called

Portis' injury opens door for Redskins backup

REDSKINS | With Clinton Portis added to an already long injury list, the Washington Redskins have the look of a depleted, losing team limping toward the finish line.

Don't tell that to Ladell Betts. Sunday's finale against the Minnesota Vikings is anything but meaningless for a yearlong backup with one shot at a prime role before the season shuts down.

Betts settled for another year in the background when Portis was signed to an eight-year, \$50.5 million contract in March. Betts was a second-round pick from Iowa in 2002, but he's played second fiddle to a different running back each year: Stephen Davis in 2002, Trung Canidate in 2003 and now Portis.

Betts has shown some promise when given his chances. He ran for 307 yards with an impressive 4.7 average as a rookie, including back-to-back games of 116 and 98 yards at the end of the season, but last year his season was marred by a broken arm that cost him seven games.

This year, Betts has run for 253 yards on 64 carries for a 4.0 average that is better than Portis' 3.8. Portis, who tore a chest muscle last week against Dallas, finished with 1,315 yards on 343 carries.

The numbers have given fuel to the argument that Betts is better suited to coach Joe Gibbs' power offense than the high-priced Portis. Betts is bigger and is able to move the pile forward, while Portis' small

JOHN McDONNELL/TWP
Ladell Betts has averaged more yards per rush than starter Clinton Portis this year.

size and quick moves are more suited to a spread offense.

For Betts, Sunday is a chance to prove that he can do just as well

— if not better. "It's definitely an audition because these coaches haven't seen me do it," Betts said.

JOSEPH WHITE (AP)

Mids Keep Focus on The Field

COLLEGE FOOTBALL | Navy coach Paul Johnson downplayed the differences between his players dressed in their Naval uniforms and those sitting just down the podium wearing oversized New Mexico sweat suits.

As much as Johnson tries to convince everyone the Midshipmen are just like all the other college football players in the country, the reality is that just a few months after Navy plays New Mexico in Thursday's Emerald Bowl, some of these young men will head off to war.

While New Mexico's players emphasized they respect everything about the Naval Academy, they also believe they owe it to themselves to treat this like any other game. The Lobos are on a roll, having won five straight to end the season at 7-4.

The Midshipmen (9-2) won nine games for the first time since the 1963 season. If they win Thursday, the 10 victories would tie the 99-year-old school record.

JANIE McCauley (AP)

In Brief

COLLEGE FOOTBALL

Syracuse Fires Football Coach After Bowl Blowout

Syracuse fired football coach Paul Pasqualoni on Wednesday, eight days after a 37-point loss in a bowl game — and less than a month after giving him a vote of confidence. Chancellor

Nancy Cantor announced Dec. 6 that Pasqualoni would return for his 15th season with Syracuse, but 11 days later Daryl Gross was hired as athletic director and the Orange's humbling 51-14 loss to Georgia Tech in the Champs Sports Bowl apparently sealed Pasqualoni's fate. The decision to fire Pasqualoni was made by Gross. "Right now, I just think it's time to go in a different direction," Gross said. (AP)

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Entertainment

Weekend Pass



Champagne Poppers

MUSIC | You could, if you chose to, waltz in the New Year. (Or mambo or foxtrot or whatever else it is kids are doing these days.) But you're just not feeling the dance-club scene. And with an ailing Dick Clark having handed the reins to Regis Philbin for his annual TV cheese-o-rama, there are lots of other ways to get yourself a New Year's Rockin' Eve.

→ SKA-MERICAN AS APPLE PIE

He stuck in his thumb and pulled out an obscure B-side the band hasn't played in six years. The ska-licious Pietasters are taking fans' requests online.

9:30 Club, 815 V St. NW; Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.; \$25; 202-218-6500. (U St.-Cardozo)

→ GO WEST, YOUNG REVELER

All the cowpokes will be sipping bubbly when J.P. McDermott & Western Bop and Ruthie and the Wranglers ring in the new, rockabilly-style.

Half Moon Bar-B-Que, 8235 Georgia Ave., Silver Spring; Fri., Dec. 31, 9:30 p.m., \$15 (includes champagne toast); 301-585-1290. (Silver Spring)



Cover tunes and bluegrass are Seldom Scene's specialty.

→ STRING-DRIVEN THING

For more than 30 years, the Seldom Scene has carried the standard of Washington bluegrass. Covers from Fogerty to Springsteen are a specialty.

Birchmere, 3701 Mt. Vernon Ave., Alexandria; Fri., Dec. 31, 8:30 p.m.; \$25; 703-549-7500.

Deanna Bogart brings her brand of the blues to Annapolis.



→ JUST HUM A FEW BARS

Know the tune but can't remember the words? Not a problem when George V. Johnson sings the standards — the "V." stands for "vocalese."

Twins Jazz, 1344 U St. NW; Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$60 per person, \$110 per couple (includes dinner, champagne, party favors); 202-234-0072. (U St.-Cardozo)

→ REGGAE ROLLIN'

I and I say it would not be arie to miss a lineup including Israel Vibration, the Ital, Roots Radics, Soul Defender Posse and Roots A'Risin'. Don't forget, mon. Did you forget?

State Theatre, 220 N. Washington, Falls Church; Fri., Dec. 31, 7 p.m. (doors), 8:30 p.m. (show), \$40-\$55; 703-237-0300. (East Falls Church)

→ DON'T MISS THE TRAIN

Alt-country commuters will be checking their watches against the D.C. area's most reliable rail service, Last Train Home.

Iota Club and Café, 2832 Wilson Blvd., Arlington; Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m., \$30; 703-522-8340. (Clarendon)

→ WE MADE 'EM LAST WEEK, REMEMBER?

Don't spend another New Year's Eve in your bathrobe, gnawing on "a whole damn tube of raw cookie dough." Join Paul and Storm, who just sing about it.

Jammin' Java, 227 Maple Ave. E., Vienna; Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.; \$20 (includes champagne toast); 703-255-1566x8. (Vienna)

→ BOGART THE JOINT

Deanna Bogart hails from Maryland, but she handles those 88s like a daughter of New Orleans. And when the ivories start screaming for mercy, she brings the blues with the saxophone.

Rams Head Tavern, 33 West St., Annapolis; Fri., Dec. 31, 6:30 p.m., \$99 (includes dinner); 410-268-4545.

→ I'M BATMAN!

OK, so it isn't Batman, but it is Adam West, the local hard rockers who are just garage-y enough not to be metal. Hotsy totsy!

Velvet Lounge, 915 U St. NW, 8 p.m. (doors); Fri., Dec. 31; 202-462-3213. (U St.-Cardozo) GLENN DIXON

Top Stops

FOR COMPLETE EVENT LISTINGS SEE [WASHINGTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT](http://WASHINGTTONPOST.COM/ENTERTAINMENT)

Alphabet Soup: Q and Not U

D.C.-based trio Q and Not U has undergone some lineup and production changes over the past few years, but few elements of this band's story vary as much as their music. Their sound has evolved into a danceable melange of synth-driven sounds that, as one Washington Post critic put it, could get "otherwise too-cool scenesters shaking their hips."

Black Cat, 1811 14th St. NW; Thu., Dec. 30, 8:30 p.m.; \$9; 202-397-7328. (U St.-Cardozo)



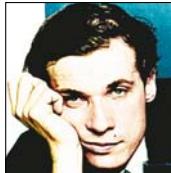
SHAWN BRACKBILL
Q and Not U may be planning a tour, or world domination. Anybody's guess.

New Year of Laughter: Jackie Flynn

He's been seen in films like "There's Something About Mary," "Kingpin," and "Shallow Hall," and now Jackie Flynn is appearing at the Improv for a pair of New Year's Eve shows.

The Improv, 1140 Connecticut Ave. NW; Fri., Dec. 31, 8 p.m. and 10:15 p.m.; \$35-75; 202-296-7008. (Farragut North)

Continued on page 16



Crazy Like a Fox: Pianist Glenn Gould raised eyebrows with his talent and his eccentricities.

FILM | 17



Lost Legend: Hank Williams died at 29, but his music has inspired generations of musicians.

TRIBUTE | 16



Living 'Memory': Alice Ripley and other artists take the stage to celebrate the work of Andrew Lloyd Webber.

STAGE | 19

WHAT'S HAPPENING?

Please send press releases and photos to expressevents@readexpress.com

Entertainment | **WeekendPass**

Dance Resolution

Clubs offer hot New Year's beats despite a lack of marquee DJs

DANCE | The biggest surprise this New Year's Eve may be the lack of big-name DJs at Washington's top nightclubs — no Fatboy Slims, Paul Van Dyks or Deep Dishes.

At Cubik, the electronic music event at Nation that is usually the preserve of some of the world's finest mixmasters, the stars of the party are 17 local DJs chosen by a vote of their peers. (No pressure there.) Bling-bling clubs Dream, H2O, Platinum and Fur are keeping admission prices low (for New Year's Eve, at least) by cutting back the frills. After some early evening open-bar and buffet action, all four nightspots are pay-as-you-go with multiple rooms of hip-hop, house and other styles of dance music.

And they're not the only ones letting club-goers celebrate on a budget. "Glam" is the theme at Home, and a \$75 ticket includes four floors of dancing, a buffet and all-you-can-drink liquor. Or, for \$30, you can get in the door and lift a glass of champagne at midnight. MCCXXIII and Five similarly allow patrons to choose whether they want to sign up for an expen-



WIDE AWAKE: Dream is just one of the clubs offering low-cost New Year's hijinks.

sive open-bar "deal" or not.

Other clubs, though, are going all out. Pearl, Crush, Polly Esther's and Tequila Beach are among those touting all-inclusive packages of food, drink and dancing. The City Museum of Washington closed last month, but the event Muse promises to bring crowds for a top-shelf open bar, DJs and a performance by English bhangra DJs RDB (Rhythm Dhol Bass). Most, if not all, of these events require "proper attire" —

leave the jeans at home.

Looking for something more romantic? Try swinging in the new year at Glen Echo's beautifully restored art deco Spanish Ballroom, where the Tuxedo Park Orchestra plays hot jazz and jump blues from 9 p.m. to 12:30. If you need help for that first dance of 2005, instructors Tom Koerner and Debra Sternberg offer an hour-long beginner swing lesson at 8 p.m.

FRITZ HAHN (WASHINGTONPOST.COM)

Like the Prom, But Dirtier

At DC9, R-rated fun with a high school theme

OUT & ABOUT | Bust out the parachute pants, Jermaine. Or the flannel shirt, that fuchsia prom dress, or checkerboard Vans. Washington has too many tuxes and little black dresses already. So DC9 is hosting Make Out, the event where Washingtonians ring in the New Year high school style. They're gonna party like it's 1989.

Four DJs will announce your romantic dedications of chestnuts from the likes of Duran Duran, Prince, Madonna and Depeche Mode. Like love, nostalgia is blind. Choose wisely.

If you were too chicken to play

Spin the Bottle back when — and you know you were — Friday is your big chance. Yes, time for your seven minutes in heaven, Urkel. Also, nominations will be taken for the evening's King and Queen. Plus, the price of admission includes munchies, "bake sale" treats and a yearbook photo (oh, joy). Good thing there's an open bar.

But don't drink too much, lest some rogue Urban Outfitters buyer knock you down to steal those parachute pants. They're worth triple digits in the suburbs. BOB MASSEY

DC9, 1940 9th St. NW; Fri., Dec. 31, 9 p.m.-4 a.m., \$50, tickets must be



DJ Daneilita is on tap to spin '80s favorites and take dancers' requests.

purchased in advance at DC9 or from www.annielou.com/makeout; 202-483-5000. (U St.-Cardozo).



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Entertainment | WeekendPass

Gould's Classical Genius

FILM | Pianist Glenn Gould is generally considered either a genius or a crank. Not that they're mutually exclusive, by any means. But at the age of 31, the greatest interpreter of Bach since Johann himself withdrew from all public performance.

It was 50 years ago this week that Gould made his Washington debut at the Phillips Collection. AFI Silver Theatre commemorates the occasion with three acclaimed documentaries: "Glenn Gould: Off the Record" and "Glenn Gould: On the Record," directed by Wolf Koenig and Roman Kroitor; and, from the *Life & Times* series, "Glenn Gould: The Hidden Genius."

That same year, 1955, the young virtuoso recorded his legendary interpretation of Bach's "Goldberg Variations." His insightful rendition swept aside 300 years of Bach orthodoxy and made him an instant superstar. The worldwide demand for concert performances stoked his latent — or invented — hypochondria. Soon Gould became known for last-minute cancellations. Then, in 1964, he exited the stage permanently.

The withdrawal, the strange radio shows and unorthodox recording techniques only fed Gould's reputation as a kook. But in half a century, his "Goldberg Variations" has never gone out of print. **BOB MASSEY**

AFI Silver Theatre, 8633 Colesville Road, Silver Spring; Sun., Jan. 2, 1:05 p.m.; Mon., Jan. 3, 7:05 p.m.; 301-495-6720. (Silver Spring)

SHOWS | SHELL GAME



COURTESY TRIXIELITTLE

RED-FACED: Why settle for hors d'oeuvres when you can have Lobster Boy this New Year's? Performer Trixie Little brings her zany Lobster Boy revue to The Warehouse Theater Friday night. Tickets available at lobsterboy.net.

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Meet the Fockers

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WeekendPass

Entertainment

Space Jam

They may improvise, but Particle's shows don't folk around

MUSIC | Particle is an instrumental jam band that doesn't act like one. When they take the stage for a gaggle of bleary-eyed concertgoers Saturday at the 9:30 Club, they won't soothe the audience into a slumber, but instead unleash what they've

dubbed "space porn" — dashes of electronica, funk, rock and hip-hop all whipped into a danceable mix.

Despite their distinctly non-folky Los Angeles roots, Particle's known for playing lengthy sets. They've got several hundred concert dates in the can and gained their formidable live rep by keeping fans on their feet — including a notable five-hour session at last year's hipster-approved Bonnaroo Music & Arts Festival.



ELECTRIC YOUTH: Particle weaves electronica, funk and rock into danceable jams.

This was a watershed year for Particle. They played an unexpected tour with wacky former Guns N' Roses guitarist Buckethead and released a dance remix EP featuring production work from Groove Armada's Tom Findlay. This year also saw their first studio album hit the shelves with a pulse-pounding title cut ("Launchpad").

With crack tunesmiths plucking grooves from multiple genres, Particle will undoubtedly get the New Year off to a booty-shaking launch. **CRAIG SMITH**

9:30 Club; 815 V St. NW; Sat., Jan. 1, 8 p.m.; \$15; 703-218-6500. (U St. Cardozo)



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Fandom of the Opera

STAGE | Andrew Lloyd Webber's musicals can seem kind of weird; take those dancing and singing cats, for instance.

Of course, they're also hugely popular. Every Webber fan has a

favorite number from a favorite musical and might even buy several different versions of said musical.

The Kennedy Center is capitalizing on that kind of mania by putting on a showcase, "The Music of Andrew

Lloyd Webber," this weekend.

Singers include Liz Callaway ("Miss Saigon"), Alice Ripley ("Side Show"), Robert Evan ("Les Misérables") and others. They'll sing not only Webber's hits, but also new music from the "Phantom of the Opera" movie and the U.S. premiere of songs from his London musical, "The Woman in White."



A Victorian romance, "Woman in White" sounds like a typical Webber work. There's a mysterious woman (in white!), a sinister knight and of course, a stirring score. ERIN O'CONNOR

Kennedy Center Opera House, 2700 F St. NW; through Jan. 2; \$25-\$150; 202-467-4600. (Foggy Bottom-GWU)

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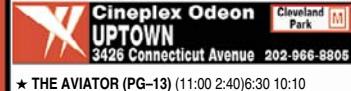
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FINDING NEVERLAND (PG) (1:10 3:40) 6:30 9:20



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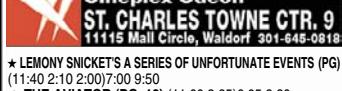
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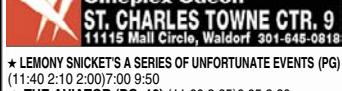
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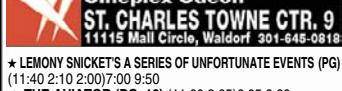
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A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT (R) (1:00 3:55) 6:50 9:45
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Actor Jerry
Orbach
Dead at 69NEW YORK | Actor Jerry Orbach, who
played a sardonic, seen-it-all cop
on TV's "Law & Order" and scored
on Broadway as a song-and-dance
man, has died of prostate cancer
at 69, a representative of the show
said Wednesday.Orbach died Tuesday night in
Manhattan after several weeks of
treatment.A lifelong New Yorker, Orbach
embodied the Big Apple like few
other actors. When his illness was
diagnosed, he had begun production
on NBC's upcoming spinoff
"Law & Order: Trial By Jury,"
after 12 seasons playing Detective
Lennie Briscoe in the original series.Among Orbach's many roles were
appearances in hit musicals including
"Promises, Promises" and "The
Fantasticks." He also had big-screen
roles in films like "Dirty Dancing."Lights on Broadway marquees
were expected to be dimmed for one
minute at curtain time Wednesday
night in Orbach's memory. (AP)Orbach, right, is best known for his role
on the NBC hit drama "Law & Order."

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New Year's | World Party

Starting at 5 a.m. in the Eastern time zone, it's New Year's Day somewhere in the world for 24 hours straight (starting with the islands of Kiribati in the Pacific). In the spirit of world unity, why not spend your New Year's Eve celebrating with your international brethren-in-spirit? So raise your glass as we embark on a whirlwind toast-a-thon across four continents.

6 p.m. EST: YAOUNDÉ, CAMEROON.

Cameroonians often incorporate activities such as celebratory memorials or cultural festivals into their year-end festivities, said a spokesperson for the Cameroon Embassy. Much simpler: Just order up a Guinness. Before you Irish folk go berserk, an explanation: the Guinness Cameroon brewery is where a lot of African Guinness is made, and it's the toast of choice as the clock strikes midnight (or, for our purposes, 6 p.m.).

7 p.m. EST: LONDON, ENGLAND.

Having blundered out of the pubs and into the streets, Brits are now amassing in front of Parliament to count down to the New Year. To simulate: Open your freez-



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Television

ALL THE RIGHT QUESTIONS: "Jeopardy!" whiz Ken Jennings has another chance to bring home big money. He's set to take part



Dropping the Ball

No plans for New Year's? The networks have got you covered

TELEVISION | Once again, TV could prove invaluable on New Year's Eve. For anyone stuck with no clock or wristwatch within sight, how else will they know when 2005 arrives?

Here are a trio of television heralds of the new year:

For the 33rd year, ABC will let you watch the ball drop in Times Square on "New Year's Rockin' Eve," though sadly absent will be the ail-

ing Dick Clark. Filling in this year will be Regis Philbin, with Ashlee Simpson serving as host for the West Coast portions of the show. It airs for an hour at 10 p.m., then resumes at 11:35 p.m. for 90 minutes more.

On Fox, Ryan Seacrest will do the honors on "New Year's Eve: Live From Times Square." The special guest is recording artist Usher. The 90-minute special begins at 11 p.m.

Over on MTV, catch "Iced Out New Year's Eve." Film starlet and current media fixation Lindsay Lohan will be host, along with MTV



Dick Clark's still recovering, so ABC has pinned its rockin' hopes on Reege



Robert Duvall stars in one of the Sci-Fi Channel's "Twilight Zone" offerings.

ON TV THIS WEEKEND

DON'T TRY TO DIAL IT

Members of the underworld set about capturing a child murderer (Peter Lorre) in Weimar Berlin in director Fritz Lang's 1931 drama **M** (3 a.m., Thursday, Turner Classic Movies).

CBEEPIEB THAN RYAN SEACREST

SLEEP TIGHT, ITIAN GHOSTS!
Now in its 10th year, this year's **THE TWILIGHT ZONE** (8 a.m., Friday, Sci Fi) marathon features episodes chosen by fans on the cable network's Web site. Broadcast in glorious black and white through 6 a.m. Saturday morning.

YOU CAN JIVE

For dancing queens, nothing says New Year's like **ABBA: THE MOVIE** (Midnight, Saturday, Turner Classic Movies). Lasse Hallstrom directed this 1977 concert documentary.



Robert Duvall stars in one of the Sci-Fi Channel's "Twilight Zone" offerings.

HANG UP THAT HANGOVER

HANG UP THAT HANGOVER
Since some see New Year's Day as a day of renewal, why not make room for renovations? Hosted by designer Karen McAloon, **DESIGN REMIX** (3:30 p.m., Saturday, HGTV) offers affordable ideas for fixing up neglected spaces. KEVIN MCDONOUGH (UNITED FEATURE SYNDICATE)

12.30.04		6:00 PM	6:30	7:00	7:30	8:00	8:30	9:00	9:30	10:00	10:30	11:00	11:30
LOCAL CHANNELS	WRC	4 News <small>CC</small>	NBC Nightly News	Access Hollywood	Joey <small>1 CC</small>	Joey <small>1 CC</small>	Joey <small>1 CC</small>	Will & Grace <small>1</small>	(9:59) ER "Impulse Control" <small>1 CC</small>	News <small>CC</small>	The Tonight Show		
	WTTG	5 The Simpsons <small>1</small>	The Simpsons <small>1</small>	Friends <small>1 CC</small>	Seinfeld <small>1 CC</small>	The O.C. "The S.o.N.C." <small>1 CC</small>	The O.C. <small>1 CC</small>		News	Friends <small>1 CC</small>	Drew Carey		
	WJLA	7 News <small>CC</small>	ABC Wld News	Wheel of Fortune	Jeopardy! (N)	★★★ "My Best Friend's Wedding" (1997) Julia Roberts. <small>1 CC (DVS)</small>			PrimeTime Live (N) <small>CC</small>	News <small>CC</small>	(:35) Nightline		
	WUSA	9 News <small>CC</small>	CBS News	USA Tonight	Ent. Tonight	Cold Case "The Plan" <small>1 CC</small>	CSI: Crime Scene Investigation <small>1</small>	Without a Trace "In the Dark" <small>CC</small>	News <small>CC</small>	(:35) Late Show			
	WDCA	20 Girlfriends <small>CC</small>	Girlfriends <small>CC</small>	Malcolm-Mid.	Malcolm-Mid.	WWE SmackDown! Scheduled: Big Show still wants JBL and his title. (N) <small>1</small>	Children Will Listen <small>1 CC</small>	That '70s Show	That '70s Show	Every-Raymond	Dharma & Greg		
	WMPT	22 The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Business Rpt.	Business Conn.	Ask This Old	MotorWeek (N) <small>1</small>	Children Will Listen <small>1 CC</small>	Harambeel <small>1 CC</small>		Kwanzaa-Fun	Lighting the Way		
	WETA	26 BBC World News	Business Rpt.	The NewsHour With Jim Lehrer (N)	Sesno Reports	Alcohol consumption.	Globe Trekker "Ultimate India" <small>CC</small>	★★★ "The Grateful Dead Movie" (1977, Documentary)					
	WHUT	32 Marvin Hamlisch's Christmas	BBC World News	MoneyWise <small>CC</small>	On Africa				BBC World News	Tavis Smiley <small>1</small>	Charlie Rose Andrew Lloyd Webber.		
	WBDC	50 The Parkers <small>1</small>	Steve Harvey	The Parkers <small>1</small>	Steve Harvey	★★★ "Heathers" (1989) Winona Ryder, Christian Slater. Premiere. <small>1 CC</small>	Will & Grace <small>1</small>	Just Shoot Me <small>1</small>	Will & Grace <small>1</small>	Blind Date <small>CC</small>			
	A&E	City Confidential <small>CC</small>	American Justice "Deadly Force" <small>1</small>	Cold Case Files <small>CC</small>					Cold Case Files <small>CC</small>		Crossing Jordan "Pandora's Trunk"		
BASIC CABLE	Animal	The Crocodile Hunter <small>CC</small>	The Most Extreme <small>CC</small>		The Planet's Funniest Animals <small>CC</small>	Pet Star	Talented pig; artistic penguin.	Miami Animal Police <small>CC</small>		The Planet's Funniest Animals <small>CC</small>			
	BET	106 & Park: BET's Top 10 Live		BET Awards '04	From the Kodak Theatre, Hollywood, Calif.					BET Nightly News	BET Style		
	Bravo	The 100 Greatest TV Characters	The West Wing "Game On" <small>1 CC</small>	★★★ "The Birdcage" (1996, Comedy) Robin Williams, Gene Hackman, Nathan Lane.					The West Wing "Game On" <small>1 CC</small>		The Birdcage		
	Comedy	Comedy Central's Last Laugh '04	Jeff Foxworthy: Totally Committed <small>1</small>	Reno 911! <small>CC</small>	Reno 911! <small>CC</small>	Reno 911! <small>CC</small>	Reno 911! <small>CC</small>	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show	Chappelle's Show		
	Court	NYPD Blue <small>1 CC</small>	Cops <small>1 CC</small>	Cops <small>1 CC</small>	The Investigators		Forensic Files	Body of Evidence	The Investigators "Prisoners of Love"	Hollywood Heat	Hollywood Justice		
	Discovery	Garage Takeover Beach theme.	American Chopper <small>CC</small>	Spy in The... The lives of lions.			Spy in The... (N)	Spy in The... (N)	Spy in The... (N)	Spy in The...			
	DISCH	Chicago Hope <small>1 CC</small>	Trauma: Life in the ER "Boomtown"	Love Lab: Parallel Lives			Berman & Berman	Berman & Berman "Can I Do That?"	Love Lab: Parallel Lives				
	Disney	Lizzie McGuire	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister <small>1</small>	That's So Raven	★★ "The Cheetah Girls" (2003, Comedy-Drama) Raven, Lynn Whitfield, <small>CC</small>	Lizzie McGuire	Sister, Sister <small>1</small>	Even Stevens	Boy Meets World			
	E!	Entertainer of the Year	E! News (N)	Dr. 90210	Lionel Richie Hollywood Story	Love Is in the Heir	Love Is in the Heir	Life Is Great	Dr. 90210	Howard Stern	Howard Stern		
	FX	Fear Factor <small>1 CC</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	King of the Hill <small>1</small>	Billionaire: Quest for Best			
SPAN	HGTV	Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Curb Appeal	House Hunters	Wknd Warriors	Landscapers	Divine Design	Designers'	House Hunters (N)	House Hunters	Painted House <small>1</small>	Design on a Dime
	Family	7th Heaven "Angel" <small>1 CC</small>	Smallville "Exodus" <small>CC</small>	★ "Problem Child" (1990, Comedy) John Ritter, Michael Oliver.				Whose Line?	Whose Line?	The 700 Club <small>CC</small>			
	History	Deep Sea Detectives "The Frolic"	Modern Marvels "Times Square"	The Doomsday Clock <small>CC</small>							Hooked: Illegal Drugs		
	Lifetime	(5:00) ★★ "Our Mother's Murder"	★ "The Return of Alex Kelly" (1999) Margot Kidder, Cassidy Rae. <small>CC</small>				★★ "Power and Beauty" (2002) Natasha Henstridge, Kevin Anderson. <small>CC</small>		The Nanny <small>CC</small>	The Golden Girls			
	MTV	True Life The lives of little people. <small>1</small>	True Life "I'm Obese" <small>1</small>	True Life <small>1</small>			True Life "I'm Rallying to L.A." <small>1</small>	MadeTalent competition. (N) <small>1</small>	Nick & Jessica	Nick & Jessica			
	NICK	Hey Arnold! <small>CC</small>	SpongeBob	★★ "The Rugrats Movie" (1998, Adventure) Voices of E.G. Daily, <small>1</small>				Full House <small>CC</small>	Full House <small>CC</small>	Fresh Prince	The Cosby Show	Roseanne <small>CC</small>	Roseanne <small>CC</small>
	SCIFI	Stargate SG-1 "The Fifth Man" <small>CC</small>	★★ "The Shadow" (1994, Adventure) Alec Baldwin, John Lone. <small>CC</small>				★★ "The Phantom" (1996, Adventure) Billy Zane, Kristy Swanson. <small>CC</small>				"Sleepstalker: The Sandman"		
	SPIKE	★★ "The World Is Not Enough" (1999, Action) Pierce Brosnan, Sophie Marceau, Robert Carlyle. <small>1 CC</small>					★★★ "Octopussy" (1983) Roger Moore. Agent James Bond fights Russians planning world conquest. <small>1 CC</small>						
	TBS	Seinfeld <small>CC</small>	Seinfeld <small>CC</small>	Every-Raymond	Every-Raymond	Friends <small>1 CC</small>	Friends <small>1 CC</small>	★ "Saving Silverman" (2001, Comedy) Jason Biggs, Steve Zahn, <small>CC</small>	(:10) ★ "Joe Dirt" (2001) <small>CC</small>				
	TLC	Clean Sweep		In a Fix Newlyweds are overbudget.	Overhaulin' "52 Pickup"			Area 51: Fact or Fiction <small>CC</small>	Lizzie Borden Had an Axe		Overhaulin' "52 Pickup"		
SPORTS	TNT	Charmed "Enter the Demon" <small>CC</small>	Law & Order "Bitter Fruit" <small>1</small>	NBA Basketball	Miami Heat at Detroit Pistons. (Live) <small>CC</small>					NBA Basketball: Spurs at Trail Blazers			
	USA	★★ "Beethoven" (1992, Comedy) Charles Grodin, Bonnie Hunt. <small>CC</small>		Law & Order: Special Victims Unit <small>1</small>	★★ "Dragonfly" (2002) Kevin Costner, Joe Morton. Premiere. <small>CC</small>					Law & Order: Criminal Intent <small>CC</small>			
	VH1	Best Year Ever <small>1</small>	40 Most Awesomely Bad Dirrry Songs...	Ever Bad songs about sex. <small>1</small>		40 Awesomely Bad No. 1 Songs <small>1</small>					Awesomely Bad Songs		
	TELEM	Corte-Pueblo	Noti-Telemundo	Anita No Te Rajes	La Mujer en el Espejo		Gitanas		Te Voy a Enseñar a Querer		Noticiero Tel.	Laura	
NEWS	UNIV	Viviana	Noticiero Univ	La Mujer de Madera	Rubí		Amor Real		Aquí y Ahora		Primer Impacto	Noticiero Univ.	
	ESPN	SportsCenter (Live) <small>CC</small>		College Gameday	College Football	Pacific Life Holiday Bowl -- California vs. Texas Tech. From San Diego. (Live) <small>CC</small>							SportsCenter
	ESPN2	(4:30) College Football	Emerald Bowl -- Navy vs. New Mexico. (Live) <small>CC</small>		College Basketball	Gonzaga at Missouri. (Live) <small>CC</small>			The Season				College Football
MOVIES	CSN	I, Max (N)	SportsNite <small>CC</small>	On Campus	College Basketball	Virginia Tech at Mississippi State. (Live)		Pro View	SportsNite (Live) <small>CC</small>		Football Thurs.	Best-Sports	
	CNN	Lou Dobbs Tonight <small>CC</small>	Anderson Cooper 360 <small>CC</small>		Paula Zahn Now <small>CC</small>		Larry King Live <small>CC</small>		NewsNight With Aaron Brown <small>CC</small>		Lou Dobbs Tonight		
	FNC	Special Report (Live) <small>CC</small>	The Fox Report With Shepard Smith		The O'Reilly Factor (Live) <small>CC</small>		Hannity & Colmes (Live) <small>CC</small>		On the Record-Van Susteren		The O'Reilly Factor		
	MSNBC	The Abrams Report (Live)	Hardball (Live) <small>CC</small>		Countdown With Keith Olbermann		Deborah Norville Tonight Katie Couric.		Scarborough Country (Live)		Hardball <small>CC</small>		
MOVIES	AMC	(4:30) ★★★★ "Patton" (1970, Biography) George C. Scott. 'PG'		★★ "Force 10 From Navarone" (1978, Adventure) Harrison Ford, Robert Shaw. 'PG'					★★★ "The Green Berets" (1968) John Wayne. 'G'				
	TCM	★★★ "The Haunting" (1963, Horror) Julie Harris, Claire Bloom. 'G' <small>CC</small>		★★★ "To Have and Have Not" (1944) Humphrey Bogart. 'NR' <small>CC (DVS)</small>					★★★ "The Bridge on the River Kwai" (1957, Drama) William Holden. 'PG'				
	HBO	★★ "Mars Attacks!" (1996, Comedy) Jack Nicholson. <small>1 PG-13 CC</small>		Inside the NFL <small>1 CC</small>		The Sopranos "Long Term Parking"		The Sopranos "All Due Respect" <small>1</small>	Real Sex "Am I Good in Bed?" <small>CC</small>				
	MAX	(5:50) ★★★ "A League of Their Own" (1992) Geena Davis. <small>1 PG' CC</small>		★ "Broken Lizard's Club Dread" (2004, Comedy) Bill Paxton. <small>1 R' CC</small>				★ "Torque" (2004) Martin Henderson. <small>1 PG-13 CC</small>	Haunting Desires				
	SHOW	★★ "The Distinguished Gentleman" (1992) Eddie Murphy. iTV. <small>1 R' CC</small>		★★ "Legally Blonde 2: Red, White & Blonde" (2003)		(:35) ★★ "Dangerous Minds" (1995) Michelle Pfeiffer. 'R'			"Stoked: The Rise and Fall of Gator"				
	TMC	★★ "The Crossing Guard" (1995, Drama) Jack Nicholson. <small>1 R' CC</small>		"Artworks" (2002, Drama) Virginia Madsen. <small>1 R' CC</small>		(:35) ★★ "Killing Me Softly" (2002) Heather Graham. 'R'			"The Last Days of Frankie the Fly"				
	STARZ!	(4:30) ★★ "Meet Joe Black" (1998) Brad Pitt. <small>1 PG-13</small>	(:35) ★★★ "Disney's Teacher's Pet" (2004) <small>1 PG' CC</small>										"Final Destination 2" (2003) 'R'
	ENCORE	(5:35) ★★ "Assassins" (1995, Drama) Sylvester Stallone. <small>1 R' CC</small>		★★ "Cool Runnings" (1993) Leon. <small>1 PG' CC</small>		(:45) ★★ "2 Fast 2 Furious" (2003, Action) Paul Walker. <small>1 PG-13 CC</small>			Bringing Down				

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Top 10 Films

From AP critic David Germain:

→ 1. "The Saddest Music in the World": A twisted tale of a legless beer baroness (Isabella Rossellini) and her contest to find the world's gloomiest music.

→ 2. "A Very Long Engagement": Audrey Tautou is bewitching as a woman driven by indefatigable faith that her lover survived the battlefields of World War I.

→ 3. "Million Dollar Baby": Hilary Swank is a dauntless boxer in Clint Eastwood's latest.

→ 4. "Sideways": Give Paul Giamatti an Oscar for his role as an endearing loser with a fresh chance at love in this sparkling road-trip comedy.

→ 5. "House of Flying Daggers": Zhang Yimou's martial-arts epic is the year's most gorgeous film.

→ 6. "Hero": Also from Zhang Yimou comes this tale of a craftily constructed assassination.

→ 7. "The Motorcycle Diaries": A wry story of a road trip through South America by young Ernesto Guevara (Gael Garcia Bernal) and his mischievous buddy.

→ 8. "The Village": Cloaked in puritan garb, the film offers a morality debate about our culture of fear and one community's radical solution to a hostile world.

→ 9. "Super Size Me": In his documentary, director and subject Morgan Spurlock is both funny and frightening as he becomes a pudgy poster boy for a nation of overeaters.

→ 10. "Spanglish": James L. Brooks presents a sharp story centering on a contest of wills between the fiercest of adversaries — two moms (Tea Leoni and Paz Vega) with vastly discordant world views.

Happy Endings



'A VERY LONG ENGAGEMENT': Audrey Tautou and director Jean-Pierre Jeunet, both of "Amelie," reunite for a whimsical yet brutal World War I mystery.

Top 10 Albums

From AP music critic Nekesa Mumbi Moody:

→ 1. "Confessions," Usher: The most overplayed, overexposed album of the year is also the best.

→ 2. "The College Dropout," Kanye West: Cleverly conceived, West's album provides a portrait of street life in a genre built on caricatures.

→ 3. "Virgin Ubiquity: Unreleased Recordings, 1976-1981," Roy Ayers: Songs like "Sugar" will make you wanna dust off your old disco ball.

→ 4. "Rebel Soul Music," Martin Luther: Recalls the voice of Seal, the guitar-infused funk of Prince and the sexuality of D'Angelo, yet still sounds original.

→ 5. "One Blood: Una Sangre," Lila Downs. An album that encompasses different genres and worldly influences, from blues to rap.

→ 6. "Launchpad," Particle: No spacecraft needed here, just dizzying guitar solos and a pulsating rhythm section.

→ 7. "Rbg: Revolutionary But Gangsta," Dead Prez: Focusing on the war they believe the government is waging on the black community, they've provided the perfect rallying cry for their troops.

→ 8. "Afrodisiac," Brandy: From the tell-all, autobiographical themes to the hypnotic beats, this album captures your attention from the first note and refuses to be ignored.

→ 9. "The Grey Album," Danger Mouse, Jay-Z and The Beatles:



'DESPERATE HOUSEWIVES':

Marcia Cross, as the red-headed clean freak Bree Van De Kamp, failed to seduce her husband (played by Steven Culp) but ensnared millions of television viewers.

Danger Mouse mixes the lyrics from Jay-Z's "Black Album" and the music from legendary Beatles "White Album" to create the widely downloaded "The Grey Album," one of the most ingenious mash-ups to date.

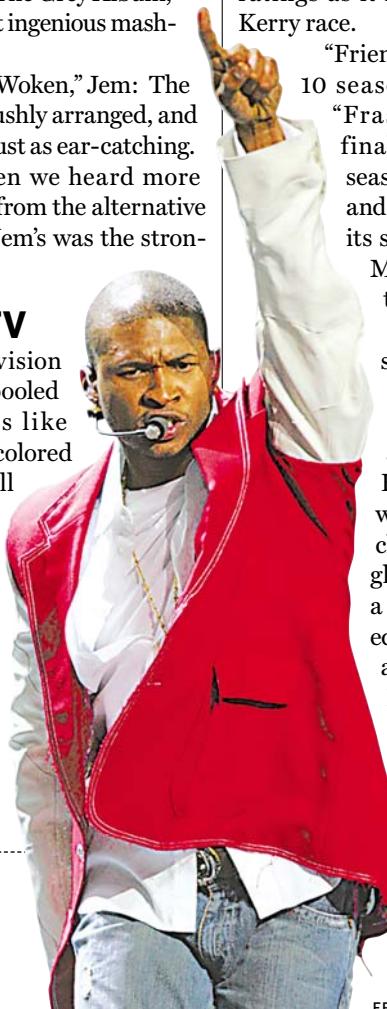
→ 10. "Finally Woken," Jem: The melodies are lushly arranged, and her lyrics are just as ear-catching. In a year when we heard more female voices from the alternative music scene, Jem's was the strongest.

2004 in TV

All year, television images have pooled in our brains like misty, water-colored memories. Will they ever dry up? Some of the highlights:

C o m - plaints of voter irregularities weren't limited to the November election.

USHER, 'CON- FESSIONS': Overplayed and overexposed — and amazing.



In May, an estimated 31.4 million people saw Fantasia Barrino crowned as the third "American Idol" — but the competition hit a bumpy patch with a report that viewers trying to log their vote had been disenfranchised by overburdened phone lines and "power dialers."

Tom Brokaw and Bill Moyers retired and Dan Rather resigned, but make-believe newsman Jon Stewart wasn't going anywhere. "The Daily Show" pulled in record ratings as it mocked the Bush-Kerry race.

"Friends" departed after 10 seasons; a week later, "Frasier" had its own finale on NBC after 11 seasons. On HBO, "Sex and the City" concluded its six-season run with Mr. Big and Carrie together for good.

The reality craze seemed to have faded a bit by fall, while scripted series made a startling recovery. High among them were "Lost" (which chronicled the struggles of 48 survivors of a plane crash stranded on a tropical island) and "Desperate Housewives," a saucy soap opera about attractive women stranded in a cushy subdivision. The latter was second only to "E.R." as the season's most popular show.

FRAZIER MOORE (AP)

DVDs

Movie Trailer

JEN CHANEY, washingtonpost.com DVD columnist, was online Tuesday, Dec. 7, to discuss current and upcoming DVD releases | washingtonpost.com/liveonline

Can you recommend some good seafaring movies, other than "Pirates of the Caribbean" and "Master and Commander"?

Have you ever seen "20,000 Leagues Under the Sea"? A special edition came out earlier this year, so that may be worth checking out. The 1935 version of "Mutiny on the Bounty" with Clark Gable also is on DVD. And while it's not on DVD yet, Wes Anderson's "The Life Aquatic" might interest you, too.

Are the extended versions of "The Lord of the Rings" worth the extra money? And is there a deal somewhere if you buy all three together?

I guess it depends on how much you like the films. If you're a big fan, then I think they are worth the money. New Line does a really lovely job with these releases. If you're a casual fan, the longer versions of the movies and all the special features on the extended versions can verge on overkill. But if you're really into it, you'll love every minute.

New Line is putting out the whole extended trilogy in one box, and I'm guessing you may save a

buck or two by buying that, but probably not much more.

Remember "Live Aid," the 1985 trans-continental rock concert? It's just out on DVD and I hear it's great.

It is great, but be forewarned that not everything is there. Led Zeppelin's performance is absent, for example, and a lot of the artists featured only do part of their sets. Still, it's four discs-worth and a lot of the performances are fantastic.

Any word on a DVD release for one of the funniest and most criminally mistreated shows in recent memory, "Andy Richter Controls the Universe"?

Haven't heard anything about a DVD release, but it's always possible. If "Freaks and Geeks" and "Greg the Bunny" can make it to DVD, maybe "Andy" can, too. Keep checking tvshowsondvd.com, which is a fantastic site for keeping up with the latest TV releases.

→ Live Online

NOTE: Washingtonpost.com's live chats will resume Monday, Jan. 3, 2005.

5 Day Forecast for the Washington Area



Variably cloudy, mild

52°



Mostly cloudy, mild

40°



Mostly cloudy; spotty p.m. shower

60° / 48°



Partly sunny, warm

64° / 42°



Mostly cloudy, perhaps rain later

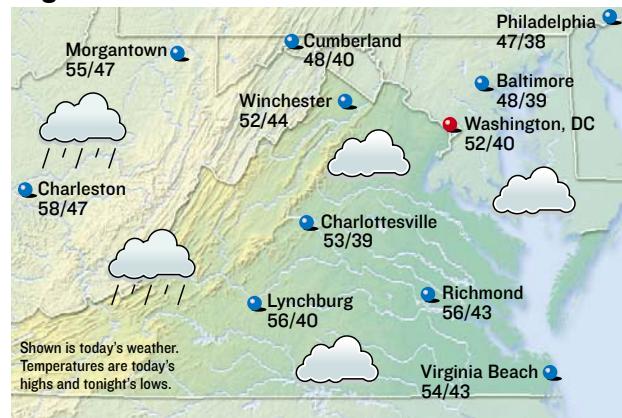
58° / 42°



Rain possible early, mostly cloudy

54° / 38°

Regional Weather



Almanac

Washington, D.C., through 4 p.m. Wed.

Temperature

High	48°
Low	33°
Normal high	44°
Normal low	29°
Average humidity	48%

Precipitation

24 hours ending 4 p.m.	0.00"
Month to date	3.05"
Normal month to date	2.85"
Year to date	42.49"
Last year to date	60.81"
Normal year to date	39.26"

For up-to-the-minute weather, see: washingtonpost.com/weather

Regional Forecast

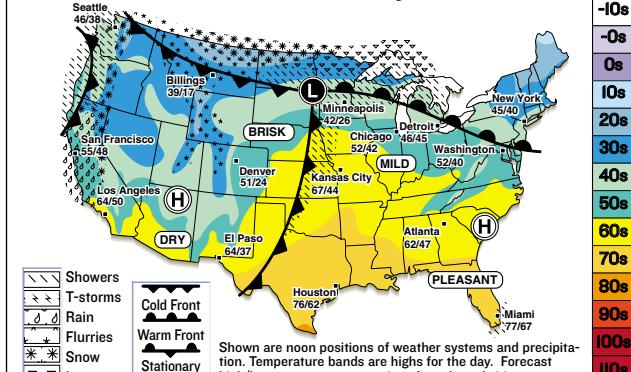
D.C. Metro: Today, variably cloudy, mild, patchy fog early. High 52. Wind variable 5-10 mph. Tonight, mostly cloudy, mild. Low 40.

Sun and Moon

Sunrise today 7:26 a.m.
Sunset tonight 4:55 p.m.
Moonrise today 8:42 p.m.
Moonset today 10:19 a.m.

Last New First Full
Jan 3 Jan 10 Jan 17 Jan 25

National Weather for Thursday, December 30

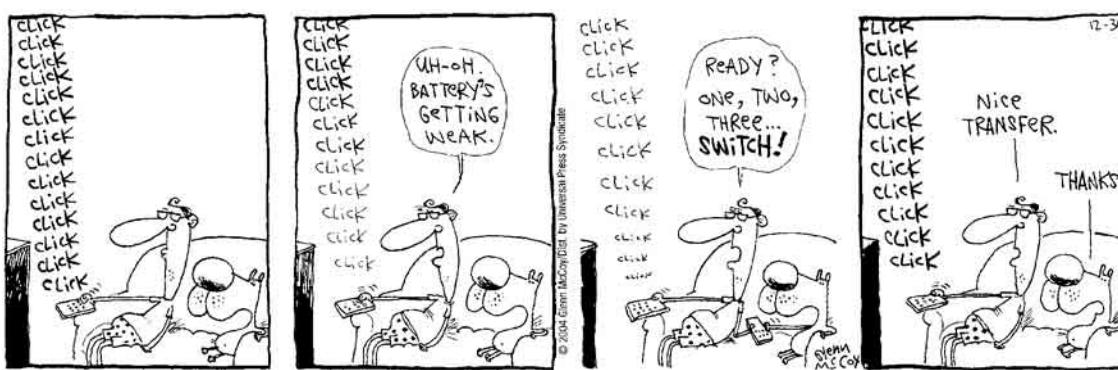


National Cities

City	Today Hi/Low	Fri. Hi/Low	City	Today Hi/Low	Fri. Hi/Low
Atlanta	62/47/pc	62/50/pc	Amsterdam	50/43/sh	50/40/sh
Boston	37/34/pc	47/40/r	Athens	50/39/r	54/42/r
Chicago	52/42/sh	50/29/pc	Berlin	39/37/c	45/40/r
Dallas	72/50/c	71/53/pc	Buenos Aires	88/70/s	90/70/s
Denver	51/24/pc	50/24/pc	Calgary	3/11/sn	-6/22/sn
Honolulu	81/75/sh	82/75/sh	Dublin	55/43/r	50/39/pc
Los Angeles	64/50/sh	60/48/pc	Geneva	34/33/pc	42/38/pc
Miami	77/67/sh	77/67/sh	Moscow	18/10/pc	21/17/sf
New York City	45/40/pc	52/46/pc	Rome	45/34/pc	49/38/s
Orlando	75/55/pc	78/58/pc	Sydney	75/56/pc	80/63/s
Seattle	46/38/sh	44/36/sh	Tokyo	41/28/pc	50/41/r

s-sunny, pc-partly cloudy, c-cloudy, sh-showers, t-thunderstorms, r-rain, sf-snow flurries, sn-snow, i-ice.

The Duplex | Glenn McCoy



Pearls Before Swine | Stephan Pastis



Letters

Bush's Outrageous Silence

I AM OUTRAGED and ashamed of our president for not personally sending a public message to the countries and people affected by the catastrophic tsunami — until

Wednesday.

However, I would expect nothing more from a man who has shown such abysmal disregard and disrespect for any country outside our own. Please don't disrupt your vacation, Mr. President. After all, the tsunami didn't hit here.

— MONICA BILLGER
Alexandria, Va.

An Atlas Might Help

I APPRECIATE the snappy, hip headlines in Express, but Wednesday's headline "Thai Ball" was incorrect. "Thai," of course, refers to things or people of or from Thailand. The picture was of a structure in Taipei — the capital of Taiwan.

— RICHARD BARR
Via e-mail

LOOK out

People

GOODBYES

2004 saw the departure of an acting legend, one of America's funniest men and three of the world's most famous photographers. Among those we lost:

RICHARD AVEDON, photographer, 81
GEOFFREY BEENE, designer, 80
MARLON BRANDO, actor, 80
HENRI CARTIER-BRESSON,
 photographer, 95
RAY CHARLES, singer, 73
JULIA CHILD, chef, 91
RODNEY DANGERFIELD, comedian, 82
SPALDING GRAY, playwright, 62
RICK JAMES, musician, 56
BOB KEESHAN, Captain Kangaroo, 76
ALAN KING, comedian, 76
ESTEE LAUDER, company founder, 97
JANET LEIGH, actress, 77
HELMUT NEWTON,
 photographer, 83
OL' DIRTY BASTARD, rapper, 35
JACK PAAR, talk show host, 86
JOHNNY RAMONE, musician, 55
TONY RANDALL, actor, 84
CHRISTOPHER REEVE, actor, 52
ISABEL SANFORD, actress, 86
MATTIE STEPANEK, poet, 13
PETER USTINOV, actor, 82
FAY WRAY, actress, 96



Hey, thanks for the year's most annoying phrase: "Wardrobe malfunction."

Nipplegates

JANET JACKSON paved the way for a year of scandalously exposed mammarys by flashing the entire Superbowl; **COURTNEY LOVE** climbed onto David Letterman's desk and exposed her upper body in March; in May, **ALEXANDRA KERRY** unwittingly sashayed down the red carpet at Cannes in a see-through gown; a piece of **TARA REID**'s torso escaped from her dress at P.Diddy's November birthday party, thus revitalizing her career.



PHOTO ILLUSTRATION/EXPRESS

Class of 2004: The Highlights

Harsh Life Lessons

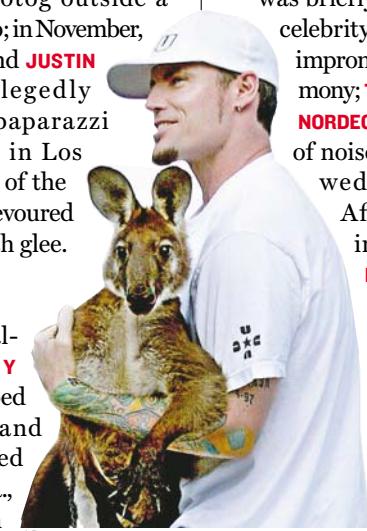
On "Saturday Night Live," **ASHLEE SIMPSON** learned to blame acid reflux if she is ever caught lipsynching again; **MICHAEL PHELPS** learned to apologize profusely and with painful sincerity at every opportunity.

Violence Against Photographers

ELTON JOHN lashed out at shooters in a Taiwanese airport in September, calling them "rude vile pigs;" in October, Britain's **PRINCE HARRY** lunged at a photog outside a London nightclub; in November, **CAMERON DIAZ** and **JUSTIN TIMBERLAKE** allegedly attacked two paparazzi outside a hotel in Los Angeles. Photos of the incidents were devoured by the public with glee.

Escaped Pets

VANILLA ICE's wallaroo, **BUCKY BUCKAROO**, escaped from his yard and briefly terrorized Port St. Lucie, Fla., in November. In



August, **PARIS HILTON**'s Chihuahua, **TINKERBELL**, disappeared for several days. Did the tiny dog make a run for it?

Marriages

BRITNEY SPEARS married random non-celebrity **JASON ALEXANDER** for 55 hours in January. Then she married random now-celebrity **KEVIN FEDERLINE** in September; **ROSIE O'DONNELL** and long-time girlfriend **KELLCARPENTER** were married in San Francisco in February; **NICKY HILTON** was briefly married to a non-celebrity in August after an impromptu Las Vegas ceremony; **TIGER WOODS** and **ELIN NORDEGREN** made a whole lot of noise about their secret wedding in October.

After Jennifer I disintegrated, **JENNIFER LOPEZ** married **MARC ANTHONY** in September; meanwhile, is there a wedding in the near future for Jennifer II — **JENNIFER GARNER** and **BEN AFFLECK**?

Coming of Age

MARY-KATE and **ASHLEY OLSEN** turned 18, causing much nostalgia and creepy rejoicing. Mary-Kate checked into a clinic for an eating disorder and both twins started New York University in the fall.

Weird Baby Names

Yes, the child born to **Gwyneth Paltrow** and **Chris Martin** in May is named **APPLE**. Get over it; **Julia Roberts** and **Danny Moder** gave their November spawn the nursing-home names of **PHINNAEUS** and **HAZEL**.

Comebacks

NICOLETTÉ SHERIDAN, formerly famous for her role in "Knots Landing," returned as a Desperate Housewife; we don't remember why **ANNA NICOLE** was originally famous, but she lost a lot of weight with something called TrimSpa and now she's back; on the flip side, **KIRSTIE ALLEY** is famous again because she gained a lot of weight, though now she's vowed to lose it; it's hard to believe that **DONALD TRUMP** wasn't the nation's most famous big obnoxious boss in 2003 B.A. (Before "Apprentice").

Celebrity Spirituality

MADONNA continued her transition from international pop superstar to Kabbalist/children's book author by taking a pilgrimage to Israel in September and writing yet more children's books.

Alpha First Children

JACK EDWARDS, the mischievous toddler offspring of John and Elizabeth Edwards, frolicked telegenically as sister **EMMA CLAIRE** melted into the shadows; the irrepressible **JENNA BUSH** would have stolen the show from twin **BARBARA** even had she not stuck out her tongue at reporters.



People You Will Forget By This Time Next Year

OMAROSA MANIGAULT-STALLWORTH, the beautiful but devious scapegoat of "Apprentice" I; **WILLIAM HUNG**, who became an icon of loserdom for his rendition of "She Bangs" on "American Idol" III; Barbie's new boyfriend, **BLAINE**, the Australian boogie boarder. Who you'd already forgotten.

1903

On Dec. 30, about 600 people died when fire broke out at the recently opened Iroquois Theater in Chicago; also, in 1922, Vladimir I. Lenin proclaimed the establishment of the Union of Soviet Socialist Republics.

See You in Court | Edited by Timothy E. Parker

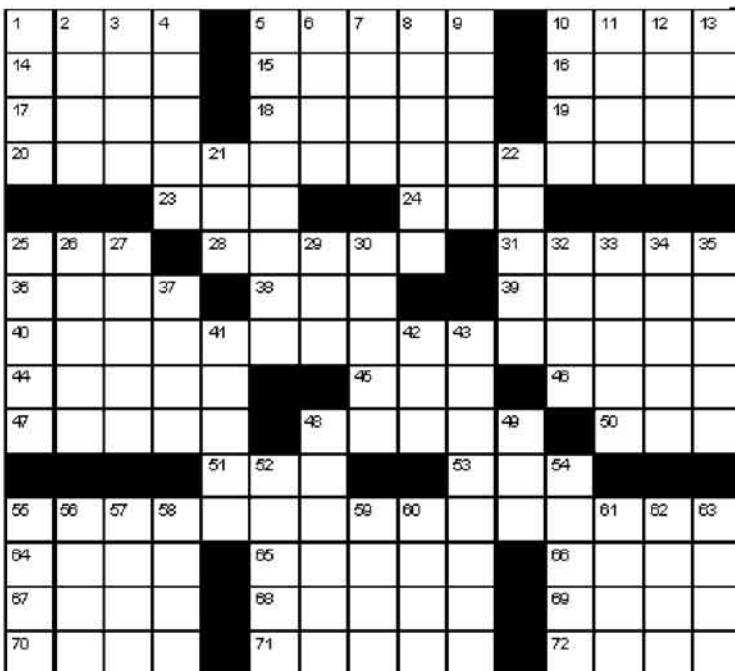
ACROSS

1 Move on ahead
5 Eurasian forest
10 Agnetha's pop group
14 Hit terra firma
15 Word after "last" or before "of passage"
16 Certain duck
17 Unattached
18 Inactive
19 Causing a pucker
20 Small print
23 Meadow, in verse
24 Victorian, for one
25 Bird Parker's music
28 It is "Heaven's first law"
31 Noted Grandma
36 Word with disaster or dining
38 Life imitator
39 Start for mural
40 Holds the scales
44 Certain yellow finch
45 Munich article
46 DeWitt Clinton's waterway
47 Heroic tale including
48-Across
48 Famous ship launcher
50 Homer's aggravator
51 Words between "call" and "day"
53 Packed away
55 Boys in blue
64 Prima donna's specialty
65 Bovine of ads

66 Mortgage consideration
67 Minnesota boasts the largest in the U.S.
68 What any hit record does
69 Suspicion
70 Kilkenny and others
71 Brown ermine
72 Setting of the first fall

DOWN

1 Cover with gloom
2 Tissue additive, sometimes
3 Tell all
4 Plagiarize
5 Fast sailboat
6 Japanese aboriginal
7 Gossipy tidbit
8 Their consumers have small appetites
9 Capitalist John Jacob
10 Aleutian isle
11 Look radiant
12 Spiteful comment
13 Chorus voice
21 Tolstoy's first
22 Max portrayer on "M*A*S*H"
25 Low men at the Met
26 Cantilevered window
27 Bacteriologist with a dish named after him
29 Famous 76er
30 Chopin piece
32 "That's a new



one ___!"
33 Hard-nosed
34 Sesame Street dweller
35 Stuffed to the gills
37 You'll find the most people here
41 Kipling story locale
42 Tierra ___ Fuego
43 Word in Ali's boast
48 Tiny village
49 Advanced degree in mathematics?

52 Part of a chignon
54 Raising goosebumps
55 Tibetan monk
56 Nonwritten test
57 It has banks in Cairo
58 Hoedown participants
59 Site of the '52 Winter Olympics
60 Adidas rival
61 Alan in "The Carpetbaggers"
62 Suit to ___
63 Introduce to solid food

Yesterday's Solution



Horoscope

By Stella Wilder

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19) You'll want all your ducks in a row before going in a new direction. Do you really want to bring changes at the workplace home?

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18) You can cope with any unexpected developments with a great deal of humor and enthusiasm, keeping frustration and panic out of the picture entirely.

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20) You'll want to be careful and thorough in all you do. Leave as little as possible to chance.

ARIES (March 21-April 19) Your impulsive nature, usually beneath the surface, will rise quickly and compel you to behave in a seemingly inexplicable manner.

TAURUS (April 20-May 20) Your prescription for success and contentment includes liberal doses of laughter. Look at life from a brighter point of view.

GEMINI (May 21-June 20) Though you are able to boast a good deal of know-how, you may be expected to listen instead of lecture. Indeed, there are lessons still to be learned.

CANCER (June 21-July 22) If you're out of work, this is a good day to pursue a lead. Those with secure employment may want to take the time to explore opportunities.

LEO (July 23-Aug. 22) Hidden meanings and other cryptic messages are not for

you. You will want your conversation direct, up-front, honest and informative.

VIRGO (Aug. 23-Sept. 22) You may be working closely with one who is usually supportive, but who has good reason to question either your methods or motives.

LIBRA (Sept. 23-Oct. 22) You're in no mood to be trifled with. You better make it clear just where your boundaries are. Settle differences ASAP.

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21) You may be unusually restless, unable to focus your attention on a routine endeavor. Perhaps you need a new avenue of expression.

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21) You'll find yourself at odds with someone close to you, but this needn't be the cause of a permanent rift. Soon, you can be laughing at this minor squabble.

ELECTRONIC GOVERNMENT

"In a recent study, the CIO Council found that less than 15 percent of more than 19,000 federal IT workers have extensive knowledge in e-government."
(Source: GCN, 2004)

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Electronic Government Info Session at UMBC

THURSDAY JANUARY 27

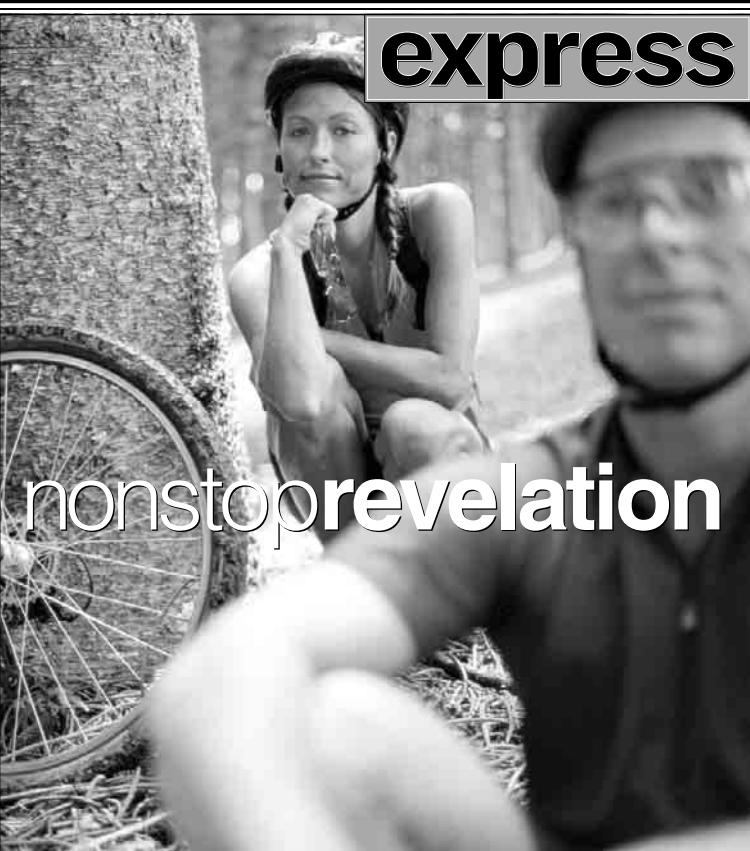
5:30 – 7:30 p.m.

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